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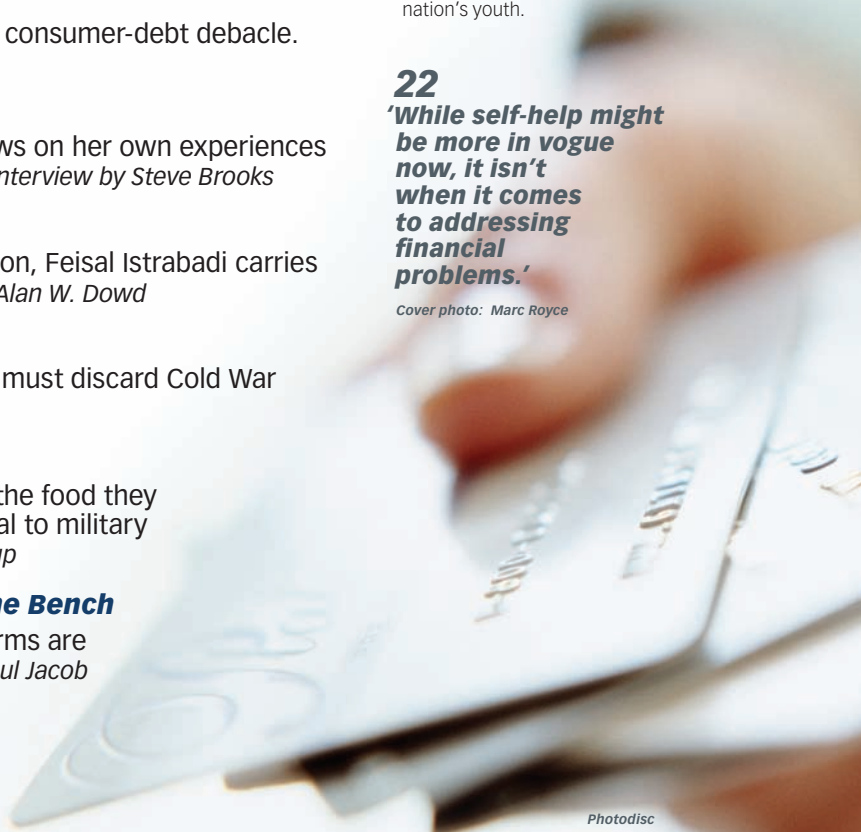


For God and Country

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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A community of support

I have been a member of the American Legion for six years. I believe in the work of the Legion and initially joined as a reserve officer who wished to share in its ideals. I had no idea, until recently, of the power and affinity shared by Legion members who have served under arms. My unit unfortunately has taken two casualties from our rotation in Iraq. I have never been prouder to be a member of The American Legion than when experiencing the community of support extended by the Legion to friends, family and neighbors of our fallen brothers. The small, upstate New York towns from which our men came are richer for the existence of The American Legion in their midst. Older Legionnaires have seen the cost of war and are solid support to those around them, including me. Today's sacrifice is too often borne by too few. I am glad to belong to a group that knows the cost of freedom and continues to reach out to those who serve.

— Frank V. Kelly, South Salem, N.Y.

Doors opened wider

I just finished reading the interview with Ed McMahon ("The Marine in Ed McMahon," January). What a patriot! What a person! You can't help but admire what he has done for his country and what he has achieved in his lifetime. One thing stuck out in his comments: "That door was closed." How true that was and still is. For millions of young people who volunteer to serve their country, no matter what the laws say, doors will close during that time they are in uniform. However, those I know return from service and move on with their lives, becoming working and giving members of their communities. They serve in the military to keep this great country it is. When they return to civilian life, they do so with the thought that the great country they served to protect will still offer them opportunities to achieve their goals. The doors that may have shut are only opened wider by the service and freedom they have provided us.

— George Christensen, Raymore, Mo.

10,000 noses

My father is a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of The American Legion. He asked me if I knew anything about the "fish sniffers" featured in the January issue ("When Something Smells Fishy"), as I am in charge of North American sales for Alpha-Mos, a company that specializes in electronic nose and tongue products. I told him I sure do and, indeed, both the FDA and the USDA use our instruments for evaluation of food quality, including fish and poultry.

The article is accurate when it says the electronic nose will never replace the human nose, since the human must train the electronic nose on what is good and bad quality. Our nose is meant to augment human testers, not replace them. Just imagine if we had 10,000 noses guarding our food supply from contamination. This is possible with the use of electronic nose technology. I must take exception, though, with the statement that nose sensors are not stable. While this may have been true in the past, technology

has come a long way, and sensors have long-term stability today. Recently Alpha-Mos has developed an electronic tongue, which is being extensively used in the pharmaceutical industry to ensure drugs are palatable.

— Lyle E. Cady Jr., Manteo, N.C.

Quick thinking

Gary Geipel's article about think tanks ("The Fifth Estate," January) recalls what was said by our American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur, which is that all failures in war can be summed up in just two words: too late, too late in recognizing the immediate threat that exists and gathering all forces to eliminate it. I hope think tanks focusing on our national security are doing just that.

— Richard G. Cary, Houston

'Slop-onics'

I read Robert MacNeil's views with trepidation. He speaks more of dialect and the effects of change on our language but fails to recognize the effect that the news media has on our language changes with the perpetuation of errors of usage. I cringe every time media persons drop the "or" syllable of "terror," "terrorism" and "terrorist" to mimic George W. Bush. "Terr," "terrism" and "terrism" don't cut it. The bastardization of the English language is accentuated by "rushing-speak" of media trying to get all their words in a sound bite. We ought to call their speech "slop-onics."

— John D. Laskowski, Halifax, Pa.

English everywhere

I always welcome articles like "English, American Style" (January) since I have devoted my life since retirement to propagating this English language of ours. I have trained teachers in Germany, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Morocco, Pakistan, and Guinea, West Africa. Unfortunately, I must disagree that it is the American version of English that predominates. I would guess that one out of five on the subcontinent use English as a lingua franca, more than the number who use Hindi or Urdu. That's a quarter of a



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billion right there. “Spanglish” predominates in Latin America and “Chinglish” in China; more young folks are studying English in China than in America. Today’s standard is the speaker’s own accent, as long as that accent is comprehensible to the greatest number of folks not sharing the speaker’s accent.

I do wish The American Legion would come out for a law making English our official language. I would rather put my tax money into VA hospitals and English teaching than into ballots, drivers’ manuals and government handouts in languages other than English.

— Merton L. Bland, Arlington, Va.

Editor’s note: *American Legion Res. No. 407, approved at the 86th National Convention in Nashville, calls on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment designating English as the official language of the United States.*

At the South Pole

Mike Coppock’s story about the original Alaska Serum Run (“The Serum Run,” January) is a great piece of journalism. However, he makes the same mistake that so many do, which is considering everything south of the Antarctic Circle synonymous with the South Pole. It just ain’t so.

Coppock writes that Norman Vaughan was the first American to drive dogs at the South Pole. Norman may have been the first American to drive dogs in Antarctica, but the first American to drive dogs at the geographic South Pole was Navy Lt. j.g. Jack Tuck. On Nov. 20, 1955, Lt. Cmdr. Conrad “Gus” Shinn flew an advance party of a Seabee construction crew to the South Pole to build a station for the International Geophysical Year. Aboard that flight were Tuck and a team of dogs. He was one of three Americans trained in New Hampshire to drive the dogs the

Navy had purchased for Operation Deep Freeze. Their primary mission was search and rescue, but thankfully they were never needed for that purpose.

Shinn had to land the aircraft eight miles away from the actual construction site of the station. While it was only an eight-mile trip, no question exists that the first U.S. dog team to get to the actual South Pole was driven by Jack Tuck. Three other advanced party members accompanied him: radioman Dale Powell, photographer Bill Bristol and Lt. Dick Bowers, Seabee officer in charge of the construction of the South Pole station.

How do I know all this? I am the historian for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. Norman Vaughan, Gus Shinn and Dick Bowers are all members in good standing of the OAEA.

— Billy-Ace Baker, Pensacola, Fla.

Consider the source

For January’s “Big Issues,” you chose Sally C. Pipes to comment on her opposition to re-importing drugs. Considering Pipes’ organization and income is funded by the likes of the PhRMA, which represents more than 100 leading research-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the United States, I wonder why you made such a choice. Pipes gets a lot of press because U.S. media income is, in part, provided by pharmaceutical advertising.

— Daniel C. Mink, Osgood, Ind.

Legion, Scouts united

Boy Scouts of America appreciates the support of The American Legion. Our common aims of duty to God and country unite us.

I know many Legionnaires are disturbed by the hateful speech and legal actions directed against the Boy Scouts because of our beliefs. We are deeply grateful for the support and assistance of The American Legion.

Recently, the Department of Defense settled part of an ongoing lawsuit, in which we are not a party, and notified military installations not to sponsor Boy Scout programs. As a result, American Legion posts, the VFW and others have stepped forward to charter Boy Scout units. Fortunately, we have no knowledge of other military Scouting support being affected.

It is my hope that military personnel will increase their unofficial support. I believe they will. This is particularly important on bases where units have been deployed. It’s difficult to sustain Scouting on some of these bases, but most are coping.

Having visited several national cemeteries, I know that our government provides headstones with religious emblems for our veterans. One might wonder if this also will come under attack. What will happen to the millions of headstones that could be required to be removed? I hope that will not happen. Organizations such as ours must continue to take a stand.

— Roy L. Williams,
Chief Scout Executive,
Boy Scouts of America

Round two on guns

In his letter in the January issue (“England’s Example”), Robert Courtney claims California has more than 4,000 murders a year. A quick check of the FBI’s “Crime in the United States” shows California had 2,407 murders and non-negligent manslaughters in 2003. Previous years include 2,395 murders in 2002 and 2,206 murders in 2001. These are approximately 6.8 murders per 100,000. I can only ask where Courtney obtained his other statistics. This is just another case of the anti-gun lobby making up facts and figures to further its cause of banning firearms in the United States.

— Ron Bacigalupo, Stockton, Calif.

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Scout battle is about American values

"To those who cite the First Amendment as reason for excluding God from more and more of our institutions every day, I say: The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny."

— Ronald Reagan

The point has been made that DoD merely reminded its duty-station commanders of a long-ignored policy against direct sponsorship of outside organizations. Routine business. Fewer than 450 Boy Scout troops would be affected, about half of them overseas, where the children of military parents could simply find sponsorship elsewhere. No big deal.

On the contrary, it is a big deal, one that is symptomatic of a larger assault on faith and its place in our free society.

The ACLU ostensibly wants the Boy Scouts removed from public places because the Scout oath refers to a higher power. The ACLU contends that even a non denominational reference to God is a misuse of tax dollars, even a violation of law.

Let's extend the logic. If a military base cannot sponsor a Scout troop because God is merely referenced in the oath, what is the future of military chaplaincies, where God is the main point? Will it become a violation for a soldier, lying burnt and wounded in the belly of a blood-soaked, government-owned Humvee, to pray for his life? And if he should die on the battlefield, should that soldier be denied last rites from a chaplain who receives military pay?

This argument would suggest Americans ought not recognize the authority of the president of the United States, whose oath of office is recited with right hand on the Bible. The vice president, members of Congress and U.S. Supreme Court justices would likewise be invalidated because their oaths conclude with the words, "So help me God." Consider the hell raised over the presence of a solitary cross that has been standing for 70 years at the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial in California. Consider the ongoing attempt to strike God from the Pledge of Allegiance. Consider the tax dollars attorneys receive from local governments when these topics are debated in court. Talk about misuse of public funds.

Organizations like the Boy Scouts help make this one nation of ours — this nation under God — a little more indivisible. The DoD, by rolling over to the ACLU, moves a step toward erasing faith from the U.S. military. And when you're fighting a war, as we are today, sometimes that's all you have.

Thomas P. Cadmus



National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus recently met with Scouts in Oxford, Maine.

memoranda

BILLS IN SUPPORT OF SCOUTS

Two bills supporting the Boy Scouts were introduced early in the 109th Congress. On Jan. 4, Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-Va., introduced **H.R. 71** to reject any law that would prohibit any form of Boy Scout or Girl Scout support by a federal agency. Colorado Republican Joel Hefley introduced **H. Con. Res. 6**, also on Jan. 4, expressing to DoD that it should continue to support Boy Scouts, particularly the national and world Scout Jamborees. Legionnaires are urged to call on their congressional representatives to seek their support of these bills.

DVD TEACHES KIDS ABOUT THE FLAG

"For Which It Stands" is the name of a new Legion-produced flag-education video available to elementary and junior high school teachers, who often lack sufficient materials to impart to young people the meaning, care and display of the U.S. Flag. The 20-minute video includes the animated feature "George Learns the Pledge." Order copies today through **National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050**, or visit **emblem.legion.org** and refer to product No. 24000. The videos are \$7.95 each, plus shipping.

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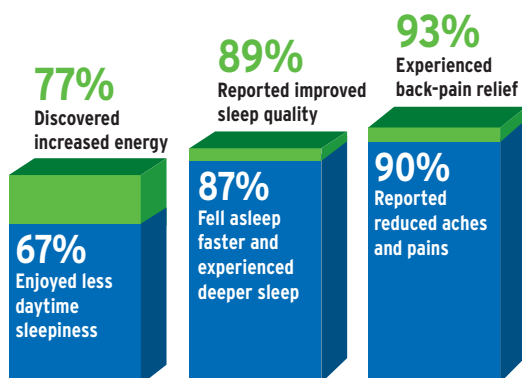


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Public subsidies for sports stadiums



SUPPORT

Anthony A. Williams

■ Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams previously served as District of Columbia chief financial officer.

After 33 years, it came down to the stroke of a pen. On Dec. 29, I signed the legislation – passed by our city council – that will return baseball to Washington, D.C. But my belief in baseball has always been more than about the game itself.

Baseball will create jobs and contracting opportunities for D.C. residents and businesses. It will create \$15 million in new tax revenue for our city every year – money we don't have now and money we wouldn't have without baseball. It will draw new visitors to our city from Maryland, Virginia and from across the country. And it will bring new development to an area of our city that sorely needs it.

The Washington Nationals will play at RFK Stadium, until they move into the Anacostia Waterfront ballpark for opening day 2008. The new ballpark will be a catalyst for a new waterfront neighborhood, including more than 3 million square feet of new office space, more than 4,500 units of new housing and 32 acres of new public parkland.

The approved plan does not impose a tax on our city's residents. According to the financing plan approved by our City Council and signed by me, our ballpark will be funded by four sources:

- An annual lease paid by the team owners;
- Taxes on ballpark activities, including tickets, parking, concessions and merchandise;
- An existing utilities tax of 11 percent on non-residential customers; and
- A special ballpark fee that will be paid only by D.C. businesses – with gross receipts in excess of \$5 million a year.

When first proposed, the ballpark fee taxed all businesses in our city with more than \$2 million in gross receipts. After working with the business community, we excluded from the fee businesses with gross receipts of less than \$5 million.

We can now move beyond just talking about baseball. We can start renovating RFK, getting D.C. residents employed, getting benefits into the community – and playing baseball.



OPPOSE

Paul J. Gessing

■ Paul J. Gessing is director of government affairs for the non-partisan National Taxpayers Union.

In their quests to force taxpayers to fund professional sports stadiums, modern-day elected officials have something in common with the rulers of ancient Egypt: a tendency to appropriate their constituents' labor and resources to construct their shrines. Like the ancient pyramids, these costly stadiums produce little economic value but a big ego boost for politicians.

The fixation on professional sports as an economic development tool is especially unwise for urban areas struggling with population losses, crumbling infrastructures and poor business climates. Our nation's capital – with its pothole-riddled roads, heavy tax burden, entrenched poverty, and high crime rate – is incredibly dysfunctional. The

last thing Washington, D.C., needs is a luxury item when it can't handle the basics, even while spending more than other cities of the same size.

Unfortunately, by proposing the most heavily subsidized sports stadium ever – at a cost to businesses and taxpayers of more than \$600 million – that is exactly what D.C. leaders want to do.

Dozens of cities have spent billions of taxpayer dollars on sports stadiums in recent years, and economists haven't uncovered a single instance in which the presence of a professional sports team has been linked to a boost in the local economy. On occasion, neighborhoods around stadiums may see improvements, but what is unseen is how higher taxes stifle economic growth elsewhere.

Instead of wasting tax money on frivolous shrines to politicians, multimillionaire athletes and team owners, cities would be much better off directing taxpayer dollars to maintaining basic services and lowering taxes to generate genuine economic growth and urban development. Moreover, cities should insist that stadiums be built with private money – SBC Park in San Francisco, the MCI Center in Washington, and the Fleet Center in Boston were all paid for almost entirely with private funds.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Numerous U.S. cities have recently appealed to taxpayers to help foot the bill for new professional sports stadiums or to help attract new pro sports teams. The trend has ignited a national debate.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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National TREASURE

The Library of Congress takes world knowledge into the digital age.

With a collection of nearly 129 million items and more than 530 miles of bookshelves, the Library of Congress is not just a treasure trove of U.S. knowledge; it is a storehouse of works recording human history and achievement. In an electronic age when publishing occurs at the push of a button, the library has the continual challenge of deciding what to retain and how best to preserve it. In addition, it does the intellectual footwork of the nation's legislators, serving as the research arm of Congress. The library has embraced the digital era, using the Internet as a way to bring our nation's greatest treasures into every American home, assuring that it will continue to hold a unique and vital place in U.S. government and culture for generations.



Congressional Research Service

The highest priority of the Library of Congress is to provide nonpartisan, objective analysis and research for the U.S. Congress. Created as a legislative branch agency within the library, the Congressional Research Service works exclusively for members of Congress, their committees and their staffs on a confidential, nonpartisan basis.

The CRS staff is comprised of nearly 750 nationally recognized experts in a broad range of issues and disciplines, including law, economics, foreign affairs, public administration, political science and natural science.

■ The library was founded April 24, 1800, with a congressional appropriation of \$5,000. Until 1897, when the Thomas Jefferson Building opened, the library was housed in the U.S. Capitol.

The Thomas Jefferson Building

In 1886, Congress authorized construction of a new library building in the style of the Italian Renaissance. When it opened Nov. 1, 1897, it was hailed as a national monument.

■ On Aug. 24, 1814, the library's core collection of 3,000 volumes was destroyed when the British burned the Capitol. On Jan. 30, 1815, Congress approved the purchase of Jefferson's personal library of 6,487 books for \$23,950.



Great Hall

Constructed of white Italian marble, the Jefferson Building's Great Hall features a ceiling decorated with stained-glass skylights. In the center of the marble floor is a large brass inlay shaped like a sun, on which are inscribed the four cardinal points of the compass.



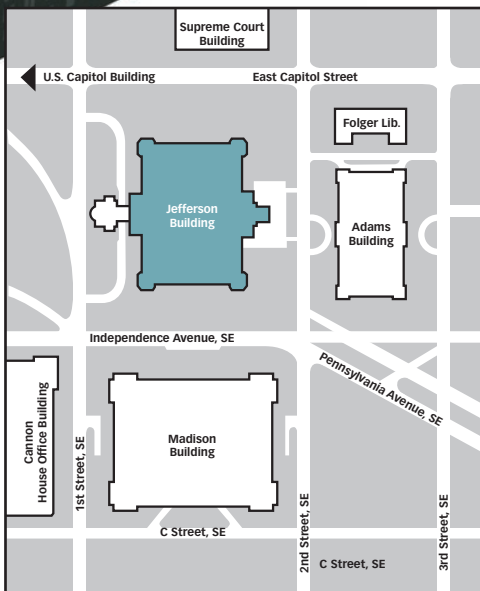
Main Reading Room

The 16 bronze statues upon the balustrades of the galleries honor men whose lives symbolized the height of human thought and activity. Included are Moses and St. Paul, religion; Christopher Columbus and Robert Fulton,

commerce; Herodotus and Edward Gibson, history; Michelangelo and Ludwig van Beethoven, art; Plato and Francis Bacon, philosophy; Homer and William Shakespeare, poetry; Solon and James Kent, law; and Isaac Newton and Joseph Henry, science.

■ When proffering his library to Congress, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I do not know that it contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from their collection; there is, in fact, no subject to which a Member of Congress may not have occasion to refer."

■ The Thomas Jefferson Building cost \$6,032,124.50 to build, \$150,000 less than appropriated.



The Library Campus

The campus is part of the larger Capitol Hill complex. The 1939 John Adams Building has elements of the "Art Deco" style inspired by the Exposition des Arts Decoratifs held in Paris in 1925. Dedicated in 1980, the James Madison Building is named for the first sponsor of the idea of a library for Congress and is home to some of the library's most valued manuscripts.

Library of Congress by the numbers

In 2003, the Library of Congress:

- Welcomed more than 1 million on-site visitors.
- Corresponded with 715,479 individuals.
- Registered 534,122 claims to copyright.
- Completed 875,197 research assignments for Congress through the Congressional Research Service.
- Recorded more than 2.6 million transactions on its public computer systems, including more than 184 million "hits" on America's Library, www.americaslibrary.gov, an interactive Web site for children and families. A monthly average of 10 million transactions were recorded on Thomas.loc.gov, the legislative information system, and 47 million transactions each month on the American Memory Web site.
- Employed a permanent staff of 4,151 employees.
- Operated with an appropriation of \$539,496,502.

The Library of Congress receives 22,000 items each working day and adds approximately 10,000 items daily to the collections. At the end of 2003, the library reported a total of 127,720,880 in the collections. These include:

- 19,367,655 catalogued books in its classification system
- 9,741,826 books in large type and raised characters, incunabula (books printed before 1501), monographs and serials, music, bound newspapers, pamphlets, technical reports and other printed material
- 98,611,399 items in nonclassified, or special, collections

Nonclassified items include:

- 2,715,554 audio materials, such as compact discs, tapes, talking books and other recorded formats
- 57,033,626 total manuscripts
- 4,793,399 maps
- 13,733,491 microforms
- 5,107,852 music
- 13,854,544 visual materials, including 924,804 moving images, 12,323,992 photographs, 88,045 posters and 522,703 prints and drawings

America's Librarian

Dr. James Billington, historian and Army veteran, envisions a library accessible to Americans young and old.

Appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1987, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington presides over the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. On his watch, the library has elevated its role as the "world's library," acquiring items from more than 60 countries and encouraging scholars from all over to make better use of its collections. In 1994, the library launched its Web site, now a massive and valuable resource to millions. Though Billington is too humble to call it his legacy, his term as librarian will be remembered for bringing the Library of Congress to millions more people worldwide. Billington recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Magazine: What, if any, new security procedures has the library adopted since 9/11?

James H. Billington: A lot. We're coordinating with perimeter security for the whole Capitol Hill complex because we're part of it, and we're full participants in the tightened security. We also have, because of many of these priceless collections, actually shut the stacks. They've always theoretically been closed, but there was a lot of liberal access. We have internal security in the reading rooms that's greatly increased, as well as in the stacks. Just like airlines, we inspect people going in, but also we inspect people going out.

Q: How has the library adapted to the Internet age?

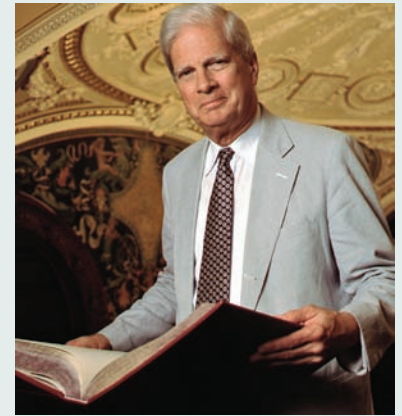
A: We've been putting material on the Internet for more than 10 years. I think we're probably the largest free, high-quality provider of educational material on the Internet, in America, and probably the world. We have 9 million multimedia items that are primary documents of American history. We have a special Web site for children, "America's Library," which is designed to be interactive and teach people searching as a scavenger hunt. We also put

online all our exhibits. We put online congressional information, the THOMAS (federal legislation-tracking) system. So we're getting a great deal out.

We also have a new responsibility to work on a national plan to archive the Internet. We received a \$100 million special appropriation of Congress a couple of years ago, and we've just awarded some to eight different consortium institutions that are going to start archiving the Internet. Digital is very short-lived, and the software and the way of decoding it change so frequently. A great deal of early digitized material is no longer readable anywhere, so we have to figure out a way of archiving it. This is too big a job just for the Library of Congress, but our commission from Congress was to take the lead in grafting a national plan or program, and we're beginning to do that.

Q: What do you consider your greatest accomplishment as librarian?

A: Well, everything around here is a team effort, but I think our greatest accomplishment in the time I've been here is launching the digital library. Anybody over 18 can use the library, but what we've done by taking it out digitally is make it available to



James H. Billington

younger kids, even down to the third and fourth grades, where they often use this material. I would put, after that, just a whole lot of management and things that really had to be done. We had about 40 million items that weren't catalogued. We've cut that number in half. We're building a huge new facility in Culpeper, Va., to house our multimedia collections.

I said when I was sworn in that we had two important things to do: go out more broadly with the library, which I think we've done digitally, and go in more deeply, to revive and increase the use by scholars of all this immense amount of material. Scholars generally don't come to Washington as often as they should. The Library of Congress in particular, and Washington in general, is the greatest single urban repository of knowledge and creativity in the world. It's not used enough. Our scholars are scattered all over the country. Many don't know about it.

Q: Besides serving as librarian of Congress, you've authored six books on Russia and belong to the Russian Academy of Sciences. How did Russia become your specialty?

A: My interest in Russia dates from World War II. I kept asking why the Russians were able to hold out

■ Sworn in as 13th Librarian of Congress on Sept. 14, 1987.

■ Valedictorian at Princeton University, where he graduated with top honors in 1950. Earned doctorate from Oxford University, where he was Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College.

■ Founder of Open World program, a nonpartisan initiative of Congress that has brought more than 7,500 emerging young Russian leaders to the United States to study democracy.

■ Author of "Mikhailovsky and Russian Populism" (1956), "The Icon and the Axe" (1966), "Fire in the Minds of Men" (1980), "Russia Transformed: Breakthrough to Hope, August 1991" (1992), "The Face of Russia" (1998) and "Russia In Search of Itself" (2004).

■ Served in the U.S. Army and in the Office of National Estimates from 1953 to 1956.

■ Taught history at Harvard University from 1957 to 1962 and at Princeton University from 1964 to 1973.

■ Director of Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars from 1973 to 1987.

■ Created the library's first national private-sector advisory and support group, the James Madison Council. In 2000, the library's bicentennial year, Madison Council Chairman John W. Kluge made the Library of Congress' largest-ever monetary donation: \$60 million to create a center for advanced scholars and a Nobel-level prize for lifetime achievement in the humanities or social sciences.

against Hitler when everybody else collapsed. I met an old Russian lady who lived not far from us, and she said, "Young man, you go read 'War and Peace.'" I got hooked, so I took private Russian lessons all through high school. I learned the culture from the widow of a Russian general of the old Czarist army. I continued with the Russian through college, and then I did my doctorate in Russian history at Oxford. I went to Russia for the first time in 1958, the second year I was teaching at Harvard, and I've been going there ever since. It's intellectually fascinating. I've been part of a lot of congressional delegations. I accompanied President Reagan in 1988 to a summit in Moscow, and I did some of the cultural choreography. I just gave a talk at the Reagan Library on the 15th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It's a fascinating country, and it's exciting to see them finally shake off the dreadful Soviet rule they had all those years.

Q: *Share some highlights of your 17 years as librarian.*

A: About a year ago, I started inquiring about what the library, after 9/11, had been able to find that helped, and I discovered, in one day, two things. We have a

huge Arabic collection, and one of our curators discovered the autobiography of Osama bin Laden. It wasn't a new one; it dated back to the early '90s. Meanwhile, in the law library, they discovered we had a multivolume edition containing most of the historic laws of Afghanistan. The Taliban, trying to make Islamic law the total basis of the legal system, destroyed all the legal records in Afghanistan. So they didn't have any history of legal precedents upon which to build a decent civil society. We were able to reconstruct most of the law and get it over there. The fact that we had these two things was, to me, very exciting, and it made you think once again that there are very few real secrets in the world. The library is important not just for the advance of scholarship but for the future of the republic.

It's not accidental, I think, that the only piece of paper that I'm aware of in the government that discussed at length the possibility that somebody might hijack a plane, turn it into a cruise missile and destroy a symbolic building was a 1999 study done by our federal research division. It didn't predict, of course, that they would do exactly what they would do. But that was all from open

sources. That was not anything classified. That was something that had been discussed, apparently, in the obscure Arab press. So much is knowable from open sources if we read the languages. It made me think that Washington is a city where everybody talks but nobody reads.

Also, getting the Bob Hope collection was special. We sealed the deal on an evening after the Reagans left office. The Hopes, the Reagans, myself and one of our curators were at dinner. We persuaded Bob to give his whole collection to the nation, really. One of the reasons I particularly wanted to have it was not just the jokes but because they had outtakes of all these visits to the soldiers. I thought to myself, "That will be the last picture people will have, a lot of people who lost husbands, sons, fathers, grandfathers. We've got to preserve that."

That evening, Reagan and Hope started telling stories, the way we all do, and pretty soon it became obvious there was kind of a duel going on, who had the better one. It was wonderful. One of my associates said, "This is incredible! The Great Communicator and the Great Stand-Up Comic telling rival jokes!" He went back and copied them down. I was so dazzled by

■ The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with nearly 129 million items on 532 miles of bookshelves. Contrary to popular belief, it does not have a copy of every book published in the United States, but it does own 17 million and counting.

■ Library of Congress materials may not be checked out by the public, but any person 18 or older may use its collections after registering with a driver's license or passport.

■ Among the items library visitors most often ask to see are the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets (*right*) the day of his death, which include two pairs of spectacles, a lens polisher, a pocketknife and a leather wallet with a five-dollar Confederate note.



the whole thing. It was really quite an evening. But it also had a great outcome, in that we got his collection, which I think is really a mint record in how American entertainment developed from vaudeville right down to television.

Q: *What is the greatest challenge facing the Library of Congress in the new century?*

A: If you look at a study the National Endowment of the Arts did this past year about the decline of reading, the rate is sharpest with the 18-to-22 age group. This is really an alarming statistic. People are concerned that jobs are being exported abroad, but if nobody does the reading, it's very elementary. You're not going to be able to perform well in a high-tech information-based society unless you can read. We have an illiteracy rate that still is disturbing in this country, and then we have people who can read but don't. If you don't read, you lose the ability to communicate. I've spent, even in this institution, an awful lot of time editing things that are written for me to sign that I can't quite understand. We're not able to express ourselves either orally or in writing unless we read. Unless you see the language well-used, you can't internalize how to use it yourself. So we have to be very evangelical. We don't want this to become a museum of the book.

Interview: Matt Grills

Article design: King Doxsee

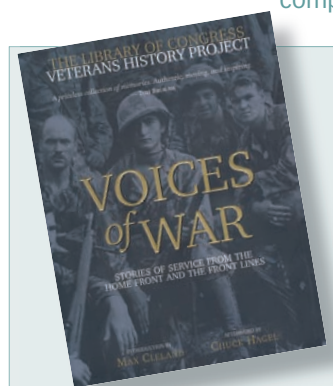
The Veterans History Project

In October 2000, Congress voted unanimously for legislation creating the Veterans History Project, which is now collecting veterans' personal histories on audio and video tape, as well as letters, diaries, maps, photographs and home movies.

The project invites veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf wars to share their stories. Men, women, all ranks, all branches, combat, supporting operations – all are sought. Also included are Merchant Marines, those involved in homefront activities and citizens who supported the armed forces during war.

"This is the stuff that won't be in the history books," says Diane Kresh, project director. "Time is of the essence. If we don't do this, who will?"

All recordings and documents submitted will become part of the American Folklife Center National Veterans History Collection. They will be housed at the Library of Congress and partner institutions, and in the near future researchers and the public will be able to access the materials via a comprehensive, searchable catalog.



"Voices of War: Stories of Service From the Home Front and the Front Lines" is available in stores now and can be purchased by calling (888) 647-6733.

introduction, and the afterword is written by Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

A companion Web site, www.loc.gov/voicesofwar, features hundreds more veterans' stories, as well as memoirs, collections and audio recordings.

Veterans History Project

Phone: (888) 371-5848

Fax: (202) 252-2046

E-mail: vohp@loc.gov

www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/

What makes the Veterans History Project unique, Kresh says, is that it's a national effort. The library doesn't have an infinite number of staff members, so volunteers are needed to conduct interviews and transcribe recordings. Students, teachers and historians, both amateur and professional, are encouraged to participate. Kresh says war veterans can also jump in, working closely with local libraries, historical societies, colleges and schools to encourage them to partner with the project.

Already the Veterans History Project has received more than 25,000 submissions. More than 200 a week arrive from volunteer interviewers and family members of veterans. On Veterans Day, the project released its first book, "Voices of War," featuring the words and photos of more than 70 U.S. wartime veterans. Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., penned the book's



We found our best watch in a history book

In 1922, a small watchmaker in Switzerland designed the first automatic watch to display the day, month and date. Only 7 of these magnificent timepieces were ever made and this watch was almost lost to history. Today, they are so rare that our watch historians are willing to bid \$300,000 for an original in mint condition.

These watches were among the most stylish of the roaring 20's. The Stauer watch design that you see here has the antique color, the vintage style and the innovative functions of the original that we have seen in a Swiss museum. Even the Breguet™ style hands are designed from the original. The owner of this legendary multi-functional watch is sure to look distinguished and set apart from the crowd. This Stauer watch is a limited edition, allowing you to

wear a watch far more exclusive than many luxury watches.

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■ Since 1962, the library has maintained offices abroad to acquire, catalog, preserve and distribute materials from countries where conventional acquisition methods are unavailable. Overseas offices in New Delhi, Cairo, Rio de Janeiro, Jakarta, Nairobi and Islamabad collectively acquire materials from more than 60 countries.

■ Half the library's collections are in languages other than English. Some 460 languages are represented.

■ The majority of collections are received through the copyright registration process. Materials also are acquired through gift, purchase and other government agencies, pre-publication arrangement with publishers, and exchange with libraries in the United States and abroad.


■ On permanent display at the library is the Gutenberg Bible (*right*), produced in Mainz, Germany, in the 15th century. The Gutenberg Bible was the first great book printed in Europe using movable metal type. The library's copy is one of three perfect copies printed on vellum in the world.

■ Items not selected for collections or other internal purposes are used in the library's national and international exchange programs.



Library of Congress online


■ American Memory
www.memory.loc.gov

 An online library of millions of multimedia items available in thematically arranged collections.

■ America's Library
www.americaslibrary.gov

 An interactive Web site for kids and families.


■ Exhibitions
www.loc.gov/exhibits

 A gallery of more than 40 current and former exhibitions.


■ Wise Guide
www.loc.gov/wiseguide

 A monthly magazine highlighting items from the entire Library Web site.


■ Global Gateway
www.international.loc.gov

 A Web site of international collections as well as those of other institutions around the world.

■ THOMAS
www.thomas.loc.gov

 Current and historical information on the work of Congress.

■ Law Library
www.loc.gov/law

 Offers links to the U.S. Code and state law. The Global Information Network links to a database of international laws, regulations and other legal sources.

Marvin the Manuscript Guy

"That I can handle this stuff as an ordinary American is thrilling."

Bowtied, bespectacled and brilliant, Marvin Kranz has access to some of the nation's greatest treasures, all just a few steps from his office in the Library of Congress.

George Washington's handwritten diaries. Pencil drawings by Civil War soldier Charles Wellington Reed. The first telegram sent by Samuel F.B. Morse. George Patton's personal photo albums. An original draft of Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!"

Kranz has inspected them all, and many more. "I consider myself a privileged person to be handling these magnificent items," he says.

Walking through the library's seemingly endless stacks, Kranz chuckles, "I know all 50 million documents, except for what you want to find."

That's not quite true. In what others might consider a maze, Kranz only needs a minute or two to find, say, Margaret Mead's journals or the letters of Abraham Lincoln. And we're not talking facsimiles. These are the real deal.

Not just any American can ask to see the library's vast store of manuscripts. Even credentialed scholars must have grounds for a request. "You must have a compelling reason to handle them," Kranz says. "I don't like microfilm' is not a compelling reason."

The library seeks out the papers of any person considered of national importance. Such pursuits can take up to 25 years, he says. Once acquired, manuscripts are kept out of the light, safely stored in acid-free folders inside acid-free boxes.

Of course, the library historian's job isn't without surprises. Occasionally a batch of documents comes with an envelope of a luminary's cremated remains. Or, once in a while, an illicit drug. Kranz describes a small collection of eye doctor Karl Kohler's papers, dating from the 1880s. While investigating them, a library patron discovered a packet of cocaine, used in Kohler's day to anesthetize the eyes before surgery. The building was locked down and the inspector general called. The packet is now in a safe.

"You never know what's going to come in with a collection," Kranz says. "That I can handle this stuff as an ordinary American is thrilling."

— Matt Grills

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— *Consumers Digest*



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- The Copyright Office, a part of the library since 1870, registers more than 500,000 new copyright claims each year and has catalogued more than 30 million copyright registrations and transfers since 1870.
- The earliest known copyrighted motion picture is "Fred Ott's Sneeze," copyrighted in 1893 by Thomas Edison and housed in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division's collections.
- The smallest book in the library is "Old King Cole," about the size of the period at the end of this sentence.

The pages can be turned only with a needle.

■ The largest book is John James Audubon's "Birds of America," a meter high.

■ The oldest written material in the library is a cuneiform tablet (*right*) dating from 2040 B.C., housed in the Hebraic section of the African and Middle Eastern Division.



Past Librarians of Congress

John Beckley, 1802-1807

Appointed to dual post of clerk of the House of Representatives and Librarian of Congress (the posts were not separated until 1815). Son Alfred founded town of Beckley, W.Va.

George Watterston, 1815-1829

First Librarian of Congress with that as his sole responsibility. Key figure in campaign to construct Washington Monument.

John Silva Meehan, 1829-1861

Advocated limits on library's size. Fire destroyed 35,000 volumes in 1851, including two-thirds of materials provided by Jefferson. Used restoration funds solely to replace materials, not expand.

John C. Stephenson, 1861-1864

Trained physician. Served as colonel in Union Army during the Civil War.

Ainsworth Rand Spofford, 1864-1897

Expanded library from congressional resource to national institution. Collections grew from 60,000 items to 1 million. Presided over library's move from Capitol to Thomas Jefferson Building.

John Russell Young, 1897-1899

Wrote for *Philadelphia Press*, *New York Tribune* and *New York Herald*. Mediated disputes with China and France as minister to China.

Herbert Putnam, 1899-1939

First experienced librarian to hold post. Introduced new system of classifying books.

Archibald MacLeish, 1939-1944

Served as captain of artillery in World War I. Appointed by President Roosevelt. Served as director of War Department's Office of Facts and Figures during World War II. Credited with modernizing library.

Daniel J. Boorstin, 1975-1987

Author of more than 20 books, including "The Americans: The Democratic Experience," which won a Pulitzer Prize in history. Established Center for the Book to encourage reading and literacy. Launched a 10-year project to restore Jefferson Building to its original 1897 condition.

"To promote the progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writing and Discoveries ..."

— U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

The United States Copyright Office

Under current copyright law, copyright registrants and publishers of works published in the United States generally send two copies of their work to the Copyright Office, and those copies are made available to the Library of Congress for its collections and exchange programs. The Copyright Office is entitled to receive copies of every copyrightable work published in the United States within three months of publication.

To register a work, the Copyright Office requires a completed application, a nonrefundable \$30 filing fee and a nonreturnable deposit of the work being registered.

Works created on or after Jan. 1, 1978, are automatically protected from the moment of creation and are ordinarily given a term enduring for the author's life plus an additional 70 years after the author's death. For works made for hire, and for anonymous and pseudonymous works, the duration of copyright is 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation, whichever is shorter.

Public Information Office

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Forms and Publications

www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/

— Wikipedia



Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower!
Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...



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Amazoy is the Trade Mark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia Grass.

Mow your zoysia lawn once a month—or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

7 Ways Your Zoysia Grass Lawn Saves You Time, Work, and Money!

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Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn – nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed 2 times...When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

2 ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake—then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

3 NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in old lawn, new ground, whatever. Set 1" square plugs into holes in the soil 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Plugs spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, weeds included. Easy instructions with your order. If you can put a cork into a bottle, you can plug in Amazoy.

4 FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, AND BARE SPOTS

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FREE! Exclusive Step-on Plugger with orders of 625 plugs or more.

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5 IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, begins regaining its green color as temps. in the spring are consistently warm. Of course, this varies with climate.

6 NO NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

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We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at earliest correct planting time in your area.

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7 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

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The Debt Trap

As credit-card spending spirals out of control, Americans face ever-growing interest charges, late fees and mountains of debt. How did buying on credit replace cash transactions, and how can those buried under credit-card debt dig their way out?



Q&A

Successes and failures

Financial guru Suze Orman draws on her own experiences when dispensing money advice.



NBC

Between 1990 and 2001, average household credit-card debt rose from less than \$3,000 to \$7,500. According to the research and consulting firm RoperASW, 69 percent of Americans can make their rent or mortgage payments, and 85 percent can buy what they need. But only 38 percent can pay off their credit cards each month. Only 28 percent say they've saved enough to weather a financial hardship. Forty-three percent of U.S. households spend more than they earn.

Suze Orman has heard all of these stories before. She hears them every Saturday night on CNBC's "The Suze Orman Show,"

the highest-rated CNBC-produced show on the network. A call-in format allows Orman to provide viewers one-on-one financial advice based on their personal circumstances. Last year, Orman – a certified financial-planning professional – won an Emmy award in the category of "host of a service award show" and was nominated for another Emmy as the show's producer. She also is the author of three consecutive *New York Times* best-sellers: "The Road to Wealth," "The Courage to Be Rich" and "The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom." Her newest book, "The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous And Broke,"



Mind-boggling numbers
Americans have
nearly \$800 billion in
credit-card debt, while
household debt
has surpassed an
all-time high of
\$9 trillion.

Stephen F. Hayes

Conflict and credit

U.S. consumers have fallen into a hole of historic magnitude and can't find their way out.

BY STEVE RHODE

Headlines and articles claim Americans are deep in debt and on the brink of falling into a dark hole they can't escape. Is the future really that bleak? Is there any hope for debtors? How has this happened, and why now?

Sometimes the clearest way to understand the present is to look at the past. Credit and debt are as old as mankind and can be traced back to the Neolithic Age. The well-preserved Code of Hammurabi, who reigned in Babylon from 1790 to 1750 B.C., contains the clearest ancient instructions regarding the conduct between borrowers and lenders. Even then, all loans had to be recorded in writing and stamped by an official, and it was common for 33.3-percent interest to be charged on loans. Without a doubt, debt was a powerful motivator in early times, driving people to work harder and be more efficient. Crop yields of farmers with debt were significantly higher than those without it.

Debt in America began before the Pilgrims arrived. Every conqueror who set foot on our shores brought debt with him. European financiers hoped to be richly repaid. Even the Pilgrims journeyed to the New World carrying debt on their ships. Backers in England had lent them money to fund the enterprise – at an interest rate of 70 percent.

As the Pilgrims and Native Americans sat across the table from each other at Thanksgiving, they had at least one thing in common: debt. Native Americans had been using wampum – Narragansett for “white shell beads” – as a currency of exchange since at least 200 A.D. White wampum beads were bored out of whelk shells, while the purple beads, known as suckanhock, came from the shell of the Quahog clam. As America was settled, wampum became the name for both classes of beads and was used as a broader currency of exchange. In fact, you could, for a time, pay your Massachusetts taxes and your tuition to Harvard College with wampum.

In early America, public perception of debt was different from the view we hold of it today. People puritanically frowned on debt for pleasure but had no problem with incurring debt for utility, like a new plow, guns or farm supplies. Even in the 1700s, merchants could not survive without extending credit. A cabinetmaker in Philadelphia recorded 92 percent of his business between 1775 and 1811 on a credit basis. If merchants insisted on cash, customers would go elsewhere.

The standard of living we now enjoy in the United States was brought on by the installment plan. In the mid-1850s, the sewing machine was largely responsible for popularizing installment debt. A good quality sewing machine cost about \$65 at a time when the

Massive mailing

Credit-card companies sent out 4.29 billion solicitations in 2003, almost triple the 1.52 billion they sent out 10 years earlier.

published by Riverhead Books, hits shelves this month.

Orman recently spoke to *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Magazine:

When you were young, your father lost his business. After college, you spent seven years working as a waitress before you were able to become a broker. Did your background inspire you to do what you do now?

Suze Orman: I'm not sure how much my background inspired me, but did it influence how I do what I do right now? The answer is, “Big-time.” In seven years as a waitress, you learn to serve

SEE CREDIT ON PAGE 26

people. The people who came in where I worked were working-class people. You learn how to pay attention to everybody.

Q: *Which is more common, according to your show, the caller with money trouble or the caller seeking investment advice?*

A: You really cannot separate self worth and net worth. When you're having problems with money, you're having problems with yourself. You're the one who saves, spends and works for it. Problems with money always start with how you feel about yourself. Really, our show is about problems people are having with money. It's not about someone calling in to say, "I have \$50,000, and I want to know how I can invest it." When someone calls in and says that, I'll ask them if they have \$25,000 in student loans, \$40,000 in a car loan or \$15,000 in credit-card debt. I want to know what else is going on in their life.

Q: *What is the biggest problem people call to talk about?*

A: There really are two that are pretty equal. No. 1 is, "I am in a relationship, we have serious money problems, and I don't know what to do about it or how to make him or her change." No. 2 is, "I have severe credit-card debt, and I owe more than I make. What should I do?" The amount of debt that these people have accumulated is staggering. And we're not talking 25-year-olds. I can understand how 25-year-olds can accumulate credit-card debt, because it's expensive to live right now. But I don't understand how 50- and 55-year-old people are accumulating this much debt. One woman had \$90,000 in credit-card debt and asked me how she could take care of it without letting her husband know.

Q: *What shocks you about their stories?*

A: I'm surprised that they have what it takes to have gotten through their situations. The stories blow me away: 20-something-year-olds calling to tell me that their parents have stolen their identities. A mother had opened up a credit card in her daughter's name when the daughter was quite young, and she had charged all sorts of money on it and never paid the bills. When the daughter got older, she went out to get a cell phone and was turned down because her (credit rating) was through the floor. Her mother had ruined her future. Stories of parents doing that to their kids do surprise me, but what surprises me more is that the kids know about it and don't do anything about it. They don't want to confront their parents.

And then I hear stories of women whose husbands die, and they lose a child, and they have all this debt, and they still make it without filing for bankruptcy. You look at the situation and think, "This can't be real." But they get through it, and that still amazes me.

Q: *Even in a struggling economy, can people still successfully plan for their financial futures?*

A: Absolutely. There is a difference between how you plan for today's future and how you planned for it 30 to 40 years ago. The problem is that people don't know the new set of rules. Most people are used to being able to fill up a tank of gas for what it costs for one gallon today. A college education costs more than any house your grandparents ever purchased. You can't apply old-world retirement modes to today. I think you may be better off, if your 401(k) plan doesn't match, paying off your credit-card debt or getting out from under your car-

loan debt. It's better to have your home paid off at age 62 rather than refinancing it at age 50 for 30 years. It's better to get rid of your expenses so you don't need as much income down the road.

Q: *Are Americans better than they were 10 years ago when it comes to financial planning?*

A: They are worse – not because they are bad people, but because if you look at the reality, the middle class is disappearing. America is turning into a lower class and an upper class because of the exorbitant rate of what it costs just to exist. People are getting frustrated because they don't know what to do.

Q: *Young military families are re-entering civilian life every day. What advice would you give them when it comes to their financial futures?*

A: One thing the military has that I don't think anybody else has is discipline. Through discipline, anything is possible. They are trained very well to be prepared when they go to war, and the same thing has to happen with their kids – if they can just prepare their children for the fact that they have to pay for college themselves, and that they have to get serious good grades for scholarships. They need to prepare their families for the actions they'll have to take, and then their children will know what is expected of them. This frees up the family's energy to start a new life outside of the military. Once they do that, they need to keep their credit score up so the interest rates they have to pay are low. That starts them saving money right there. And they don't need to go out and do things just to impress people with money they don't have. ☛

Interview: Steve Brooks

Public to get first of new U.S. Nickels

Everyone searching for the new U.S. Buffalo coin design will be able to get them at face value

By SHANNA TEDESCHI
Universal Media Syndicate

People love them. But until now, they didn't know where to get them.

They are the brand new United States Buffalo Nickels, and hoards of people are jamming the National Hotline phones to get these beloved U.S. Uncirculated coins.

The brilliant Uncirculated new Nickels are being carefully sealed in Full Unbroken Bank Rolls and sent directly to their homes.

If relatives living in 1913 had kept a full unbroken bank roll of Uncirculated Buffalo nickels from that first year they were issued, they could now be worth up to \$24,000.00.

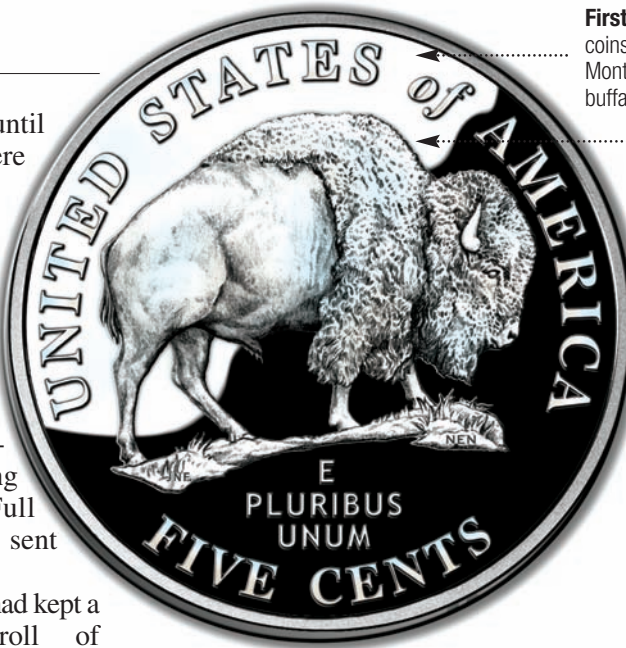
The new coins are special because the Mint has announced that this design will be struck for just one year. After that, the dies will be retired forever.

"This is a major historic event," confirms John Thomas White, Executive Director of the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

Uncirculated coins cannot be found in pocket change. The coins used for change get damaged every time they are handled or thrown into a cash register, which makes them virtually no value to collectors.

But the uncirculated coins have never been in the hands of the public and are in the same excellent quality as when they left the U.S. Mint. "Although values fluctuate, the uncirculated coins with this high level of quality are the only ones most likely to increase in value," said White.

But these coins are even more special. "For the first time in 67 years, the beloved Buffalo is returning to the nickel. And for the first time in history, the remarkable full profile of the other side of Jefferson's face



ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE NEW
U. S. MINT BUFFALO NICKEL

will be minted on the new U.S. Nickels. That makes them extremely desirable and highly sought after by savvy collectors who are always looking for limited coins like these with a high potential for increase in value," White said.

The Full Unbroken Bank Rolls also make a wonderful gift for friends, family members or someone special. "We recommend that everyone take at least 5 full Unbroken Rolls while they can still get them, plus extras to give as special gifts," said White.

The National Toll-Free Order Line is open 24 hours a day to handle the large number of requests. Readers should call right now at **1-800-235-8418** ask for **Dept. BN3939**.

"We have set limits on how many rolls of the new Uncirculated coins can be released to dealers. But everyone else who calls within the next 72 hours is guaranteed to get what they need," White said.

First & only year of issue -These limited U.S. coins will only be minted in 2005. A portrait of Monticello will appear in 2006 and this beloved buffalo design will be officially retired forever.

Mint Value

First year of issue coin values always fluctuate. But, if parents or grandparents had saved a full unbroken bank roll of the Uncirculated Buffalo nickels from the first year they were issued in 1913, they could be worth up to \$24,000.00 today.



Genuine U.S. Coin

For only one short year the the front features the stunning full right profile of Thomas Jefferson. It is a daring and unique portrait showing the opposite side of the face that has graced the American Nickel since the year 1938.

HOW TO GET THEM

The World Reserve Monetary Exchange is releasing Full Unbroken Bank Rolls of the Buffalo Nickels in Brilliant, Uncirculated condition. Readers can get immediate service by calling the National Toll-Free Order Hot Line now at **1-800-235-8418** ask for **Dept. BN3939**. The \$7 Processing Fee plus shipping gets you a Full Unbroken Bank Roll of New Nickels at face value.



■ **GIFT** -The first 10,000 Callers will receive a rich gold embroidered, royal blue velvet Vault Bag with each Full Unbroken Bank Roll of New Nickels requested. Satisfaction is Guaranteed.

THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE IS A PRIVATE EXCHANGE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY
SOURCE: World Reserve Monetary Exchange P00043 UFD00889-1 ©2005 WRME

Confounding interest

The cost of running up \$5,000 in credit-card debt and paying it off in \$100 monthly payments can cost nearly twice the principle, depending on the interest rate.

BALANCE	MONTHLY PAYMENT	INTEREST RATE	TOTAL PAYMENTS	TOTAL INTEREST PAID
\$5,000	\$100	11%	68	\$1,719.09
\$5,000	\$100	13%	73	\$2,240.53
\$5,000	\$100	15%	79	\$2,895.60
\$5,000	\$100	17%	88	\$3,759.12
\$5,000	\$100	19%	100	\$4,985.37
\$5,000	\$100	21%	120	\$6,986.30

CREDIT FROM PAGE 23

average family income was around \$500 a year. In 1850, I.M. Singer & Co. of New York noticed that five piano dealers in the city were advertising easy payment plans. Singer adopted the idea – for \$5 down and the balance, plus interest, payable in monthly installments – the national installment boom began.

By the 1920s, credit had exploded upon American society. It was too late to put the genie back in the bottle, since the rise in consumer debt by then was merely an extension of a long-standing American willingness to get ahead by borrowing. While early debt statistics are hard to find, Raymond Goldsmith noted that for every year after 1896, personal debt outpaced the population growth rate. Between 1920 and 1927, consumer debt soared from \$3.3 billion to \$7.6 billion.

By this time, generations of Americans had been weaned on easy credit and would accept nothing less. New immigrants needing new things flooded the country. For every pot and pan left at home, a new one had to be purchased after arrival in America.

Maximizing the minimum

Paying the minimum payment every time on a \$5,000 credit-card debt at 21-percent interest will require 1,040 payments to clear the debt. Beyond the \$5,000 principal balance, \$32,198.66 in interest will be paid.

Source: www.bankrate.com

Debt continued to grow along with the nation, and after the troops returned from World War II, it was a free-for-all. America not only snacked at the table of debt, it feasted. As families rushed to take on 30-year mortgages and more and more consumer debt, it was considered practically un-American to not consume credit.

While the advent of the credit card seems revolutionary, retail-store credit cards date back as far as the late 1800s. Credit in cards, charge plates, credit coins and gas cards is just Neolithic-age debt in a new form.

The Spending Syndrome. How obese have we become feasting on credit? In August 1994, Americans owed more than \$984 billion in consumer debt. In August 2004, that figure had grown to more than \$2 trillion, more than doubling in just 10 years. Of that \$2 trillion, almost three quarters of a trillion is owed on credit cards and revolving credit.

In crude terms, dealing with debt is easy. To avoid debt, you merely pay your obligations in full. So why do so many people struggle? The answer is that for many, debt is the symptom rather than the problem. Most money issues are tackled from a technical point of view, but that does not always fix the underlying problems and causes.

After many years as a money coach, and after working with thousands of people, I've distilled problem-credit issues into the two broad groups: "misfortune" and "denial."

No doubt bad things do happen to good people, and sometimes misfortunes happen when we least expect them. Typically, people with money problems in this bracket suffer from emotional or physical maladies, job loss or accidental loss of some sort. The other bracket, denial, contains the

Mitzi Pool was a freshman at the University of Oklahoma in 1997. Attending school via scholarships and student loans, as well as working a part-time job, Pool applied for, received and maxed out three credit cards in a little more than three months. "On Dec. 1, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., she called me crying and upset," said Trisha Johnson, her mother. "She had lost her part-time job and did not know

what she was going to do until school was out at the semester break. I tried to assure her that when she came home for the weekend we would sit down and go over her bills and work some plan out. I was not aware of the credit cards she had gained. This was my last conversation with my daughter."

Pool committed suicide that night, her checkbook and bills

spread out on her bed. "The \$2,500 credit-card debt does not sound like that much to you and me, but for an 18-year-old trying to be an adult too fast, \$2,500 is devastating," Johnson said. "The credit-card companies target these young adults just like the tobacco industries. They lure them in and then they have them hooked. Hooked for a long time."

Source: *Consumer Federation of America*

From metal to plastic

■ Charge cards date back to 1914, when Western Union provided metal cards giving free, deferred-payment privileges to preferred customers.

■ In the late 1930s, American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) introduced the "Bell System Credit Card." Railroads and airlines introduced similar cards.

■ In 1946, a New York banker developed a credit system called Charge-It. When customers charged local retail purchases, the merchant deposited the charges at Biggins Bank, and the bank reimbursed the merchant for the sale. The bank later collected payment from the customer.

■ In 1950, Diners Club issued the first credit card to 200 customers who could use it at 27 restaurants in New York.

■ In 1951, customers of New York's Franklin National

Bank submitted an application for a loan and were screened for credit. Approved customers were given a card they could use to make retail purchases. The merchant copied customer information from the card onto a sales slip and called the bank for approval of transactions over a certain amount. The bank would credit the merchant account for the loan, minus a fee.

■ Bank-card associations began in 1965 when Bank of America formed licensing agreements with other banks. This enabled them to issue BankAmericard and Interchange transactions among participating banks. In 1967, four California banks formed the Western States Bankcard Association and introduced the MasterCharge program to compete with the BankAmericard program.

■ In 1977, BankAmericard became VISA, and in 1979, MasterCharge became MasterCard.

majority of people, with money troubles stemming from overindebtedness.

According to behavioral economists, humans are believed to be fundamentally rational when it comes to handling money. If only that were true. People from all income ranges get into trouble with money. That's because, regardless of our income, when it comes to credit and debt, we want money to solve all of our problems. "If only I lived in that neighborhood, drove that car, wore those clothes, vacationed there," etc. It is easy to find yourself in over your head when you spend more than you make. Before you know it, you are subconsciously purchasing to make yourself feel better about life. Maybe you're numbing some pain, have negative thoughts you are trying to silence, or lack self-esteem or confidence. It really doesn't matter why; what does matter is that the first stage of debt is denial, and once you wake up, you're probably in bad shape.

Basically, debt problems are best solved by either increasing income or reducing expenses. Again, these are crudely simplistic solutions, but they work. The idea of borrowing your way out of debt with yet another loan is simply swapping one debt for another.

The average person facing financial problems is spoon-fed seriously flawed advice. Many financial experts will tell you to formulate a dramatically reduced budget, but deprivation is not a sustainable path. Others will tell you to contact a credit-counseling organization, but today, those originally well-intentioned organizations have become nonprofit debt collectors controlled by the credit-card companies. They fail to disclose that they do not truly negotiate with your creditors or that they are almost completely dependent on money

received from your creditors in direct exchange for helping creditors collect money.

Without viable, independent solutions, or people willing or able to pay for advice, bankruptcy has become an increasingly cost-efficient solution to problem debt.

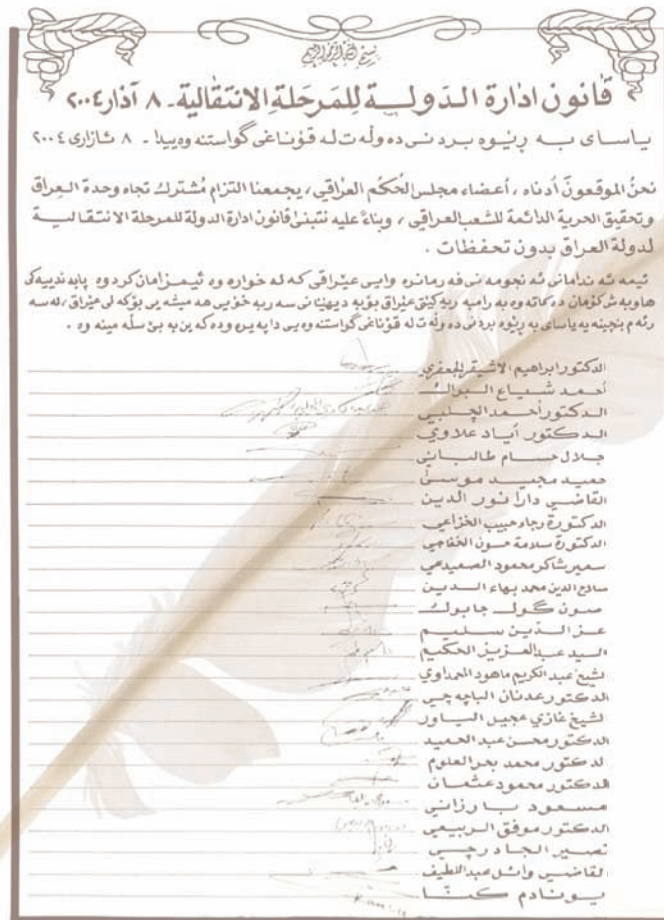
Personal Accountability. So who is to blame for the consumer debt debacle? Blame everybody who has a finger in the pie. Blame creditors for continuing to extend credit to anyone with a pulse. Blame ourselves for buying homes and cars that cost more than we realistically can afford just because some salesperson said "yes" to our application. And let's blame ourselves for rationalizing that there really is "good debt" vs. "bad debt." Some claim that student loans are "good debt," but students graduate owing more and more and now take as many as 30 years to pay it back. Debt is debt.

Creditors are being forced to be more responsible in their lending. If that happens, then those who had access to credit in the past will soon find themselves cut off. People forget that credit is a privilege, not a right. 🌿

Since filing for bankruptcy in 1990, Steve Rhode has written five books on personal finance and was co-founder and president of Myvesta.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with financial trouble. His Web site is SteveRhode.com.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

This article discusses issues concerning various financial options and is not, nor is it intended to be, investment advice. See your broker or investment adviser for investment advice.



Freedom Writer

In drafting the interim constitution for a free Iraq, Feisal Istrabadi carries on a family tradition.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Feisal Istrabadi was destined to play a leading role in re-establishing the rule of law in Iraq. His grandfather was instrumental in drafting Iraq's first constitution in 1925. His grandmother was killed in a heroic effort to save the prime minister during a coup in the late 1950s.

Almost eight decades after his grandfather laid the groundwork for constitutional government in Iraq, the younger Istrabadi returned to his ancestral home to serve as principal drafter of the interim constitution that set the ground rules for a free Iraq. Later, he helped plan the national convention, which selected 100 Iraqi leaders to serve on the interim national assembly. Both the constitution and the assembly have paved the way to a free and sovereign Iraq.

While conceding that the interim constitution – or “transitional administrative law,” as it is officially known – is imperfect, Istrabadi proudly points out that the new constitution includes a bill of rights for Iraqi citizens and promotes human rights for all. Indeed, thanks in no small measure to his efforts, the document strengthens the role and power of Iraqi women, provides safeguards against corruption, and balances parliamentary and presidential powers.

Plus, as Istrabadi explained on PBS’ “NewsHour” last year, the interim constitution is the product of consensus among Iraq’s many ethnic, political and religious factions. The previous regime suppressed dissent, exploited divisions and trampled basic rights, all of which makes this consensus-based



AP

"Iraq has a lot to learn about democracy...I am very optimistic."

Feisal Istrabadi was born in Virginia in 1962. His family moved to Iraq soon afterward, returning to the United States in 1970. Istrabadi received a law degree from Indiana University in 1988 and started his law practice in Valparaiso, Ind., in 1989. In 2003, he returned to Iraq, where he led the drafting process of Iraq's "transnational administrative law" and served as legal adviser to Iraqi statesman Adnan Pachachi and the Iraqi Governing Council's U.N. delegation. In 2004, he was named ambassador of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and deputy permanent representative of the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations.

document a remarkable achievement. Much of that hard-won consensus came courtesy of Istrabadi's handiwork.

These are just some of the reasons that Istrabadi has been called one of the "founding fathers" of the new Iraq. However, the Iraqi-American lawyer is quick to reject such lofty comparisons. As he told *The Chicago Tribune* in 2004, "I'm no James Madison."

Today, with more than a year of navigating the political and sometimes all-too-real minefields of postwar Iraq behind him, Istrabadi's legal acumen is being put to use in a far different – but perhaps equally difficult – environment: the United Nations. After months of hammering out agreements and smoothing out disagreements inside Iraq, Istrabadi now has a similar challenge as Iraq's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

Istrabadi spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* shortly after taking his new post at U.N. headquarters in New York.

The American Legion Magazine: Tell us about your family's deep roots in Iraq, specifically in Iraq's long march to constitutional government.

Feisal Istrabadi: My ancestors emigrated to Iraq about seven centuries ago. The family is originally from northwest Iran, from the Caspian Sea area. My grandfather was elected to the

Constituent Assembly in 1923. That assembly drafted Iraq's first constitution in 1925, the only permanent constitution Iraq has ever had. The other constitutions were drafted not by elected bodies but by military officers. My mother's father was a military officer who actually fought on the Turkish-Ottoman side during the First World War. He was the first commandant of the military academy in Iraq and a member of the Chamber of Deputies. My parents first came to the United States in the 1950s as graduate students. They met and were married in Ann Arbor, Mich.

They returned to Iraq, but my father was actually in the United States the day the monarchy was overthrown in 1958. His mother was killed trying to protect the life of the prime minister. My uncles and grandfather were all arrested. My mother and sister were still in Iraq. So my father went back to get them out.

When the people who overthrew the monarchy were themselves overthrown, my parents went back to Iraq, by which time I had been born in the United States. And then in 1970, about a year and a half after the Ba'ath Party came to power, my family again fled. I lived in Iraq for about eight years.

Q: Did you always have in mind the hope of returning to Iraq to complete what your grandfather began?

A: I wish I could say, "Yes, I knew it would all work out." But it never occurred to me as a child when we left Iraq that I would spend 33 years in exile. I never imagined that the Ba'athists would last as long as they did. The idea that we would have a chance of rebuilding the state – I can't say that I ever imagined that would happen. Nor can I say that I think my grandfather would be particularly pleased that we had to start from scratch, 80 years after his work. I certainly hope that my grandchildren will not have to start from scratch again.

Q: What were your feelings and sentiments upon first entering postwar Iraq?

A: Very hopeful. When you're in Iraq, it's very easy to be quite optimistic about the future. It's when you leave Iraq and all you know is what you read in the press that you become pessimistic. This is not intended as a criticism of the press. It's understandable. The story is that five churches are targeted, not that 27 million people showed up to work and are involved in trying to rebuild a country. It's easier to be optimistic about Iraq when you're in Iraq.

Q: There is much discussion in the United States about the Iraqi reaction to the return of Iraqi exiles. As a U.S. citizen with Iraqi roots, how have you and your peers with similar backgrounds been received in Iraq?

A: In general, most people I have encountered understand that living in exile is itself not easy. Although we did not suffer directly, as they did, most understand that exile is itself a form of oppression. If you went back to Iraq with the notion that you were somehow the salvation for those who stayed – or that you were going to show them how they should live – you would engender a very negative reaction.

But it's far different if you say, "Look, we understand you have suffered directly. We've lived overseas. We have learned something about democracy, about how to live in a democracy. We're here to help you – to help us – rebuild our country. We want to be of service, to work with you." Having that attitude has been particularly productive. Approach is everything. I have not returned with the idea of ruling Iraq. I have returned with the idea of serving Iraq.

Q: *As you know, debate continues over whether the new Iraq needs more or less American involvement, more or less American security and economic assistance, more or less American guidance. What is your view?*

A: The overwhelming mass of Iraqis – now and in the future – will be and are grateful for the intervention of the United States and the coalition in the removal of the previous regime. Iraqis will tell you universally that they could not possibly have removed the old regime.

The postwar planning has been adequately covered, and as an ambassador I don't want to comment on it. My concern now is the future and where we go from here. It's very important that Iraq not fall in the valley between the coalition of the willing and the coalition of the unwilling. A failed state in Iraq is a disaster for all concerned.

Regardless of how we got here, it's important for the countries of the world to come together and see to it that Iraq is rebuilt. That's in everyone's interest.

Q: *What is the single most important factor to the success of democracy in the new Iraq?*

A: I think the single most important factor to building democracy in Iraq is the absolute determination of the Iraqis not to be ruled without their consent.

I can imagine a wide spectrum of constitutional possibilities for Iraq. As a drafter of the interim constitution, I have my views, but the job of drafting the constitution falls to the national assembly. Specifically, we need to be concerned with human rights, with the rights of minorities – not only of ethnic and confessional minorities, but political minorities as well.

What gives me optimism about Iraq's future is the fact that Iraqis are grimly determined to rebuild their own country, grimly determined never again to be ruled against their will. Whatever details the future constitution may take, so long as that's true, one can be optimistic about the future.

Q: *How would you rate Iraq's progress on the road from Ba'athist dictatorship through postwar instability to democratic rule?*

A: In the space of a year and a half, a hundred political parties have emerged, along with a couple hundred newspapers. You have people speaking their minds, protesting this and that. Yes, Iraq has a lot to learn about democracy, but in fact we're on the way. I am very optimistic.

Q: *You have argued that democracy is "our greatest weapon and our first line of defense in the war against international terrorism."*

What will a stable and prosperous democracy in Iraq achieve in this war and for the region at large?

A: For the region, it's easy to see. For instance, the interim constitution of Iraq recognized the Kurdish language as an official language of the entire country for the first time in Iraq's history. So, Iraq's laws will be translated into Kurdish. Iraq's currency will be printed with the Kurdish language – in addition to Arabic and English. Because of this, the Kurds in Syria are starting to demand their linguistic rights as well. So you can already see that the progress that Iraqis are making in recognizing the rights of ethnic minorities is having a salutary effect throughout the region.

Treaties signed by a dictator are no more stable than the price of a bullet. But with democracies – when governments act with the consent of the governed, when you have stable institutions – agreements are truly national, not personal. When you sign an agreement, it's truly with the people of Iraq, not merely with the next dictator, who may be overthrown, again at the cost of a bullet.

The Iraqis – and Arabs and Muslims generally – yearn to be free as much as any other group. They simply have not had the opportunity to exercise that freedom. When they do so fully, you will see true stability in the region. Democracies attempt to have pacific relations with one another, and that will increase stability in the region.

It's been tried the other way, with petty dictatorships and some not-so-petty dictatorships, and that seems not to have engendered stability in the Middle East. ☪

Interview: Alan W. Dowd

Article design: Doug Rollison

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How to build a safer America

Reforms are needed at home to cure our country's case of national security dysfunction.

BY HARLAN ULLMAN

After Sept. 11, 2001, the United States – or, more precisely, President George W. Bush – declared a global war on terror. U.S. forces moved quickly to fight and win a war in Afghanistan that deposed the radical Taliban regime and killed or eliminated substantial numbers of al-Qaida, the terrorist group responsible for the attacks. Despite initial opposition from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security was established and – given unprecedented international support, including NATO's invocation of Article V, declaring an attack against one was an attack against all in this conflict – the prognosis for winning a “global war” was positive. Tragically however, that optimism has slowly evaporated: first, with dissent over choosing war with Iraq as the next phase in the battle against terror and later with the collapse of the reconstruction and rebuilding effort in that shattered state.

Beyond these developments, substantial “unfin-

ished business” remains from the Cold War. The strategy and tools that won the Cold War – alliances, deterrence and containment – are being steadily eroded by a fundamental change in the threat, combined with what has been seen abroad as arrogance and unilateralism on the part of the Bush administration, including irreconcilable differences over the global war on terror and what actually constitutes terrorism and terrorists. No new framework for relations with China and Russia has been developed, and the national security structure at home remains rooted in Cold War thinking.

My new book, “Finishing Business: Ten Steps to Defeat Global Terror,” is written as both an alarm and prescription, with emphasis on the latter. The steps can be aggregated into three categories:

- Understanding the nature of the danger.
- Actions to be taken at home to relieve as many of the “dysfunctional” aspects of our national security organization as possible.



Ten steps to winning the global war on terror

1 **Americans must recognize that the “global war on terror” implies an aim of winning that simply is not achievable.** In no way can a war on terror, like wars against crime, drugs, poverty and disease, ever bring total victory, with its emphasis on attacking symptoms and not the causes of terror.

2 **We must understand the extent of the real danger posed by jihadist extremists.** The role of terror is to terrorize and is not an end in itself. The broader aims of these organizations are not significantly different from those of the Bolsheviks or the Nazis. The aim is to establish some form of Taliban-like regime or regimes steeped in radical Islam with access to Saudi

money and Pakistani nuclear weapons, with the broader intent of spreading their religion globally.

3 **We must recognize that the danger posed by jihadist extremists is not the massive destruction of society through thermonuclear war.**

The new danger is one of massive disruption through real or threatened terrorist attacks aimed at dislocating and disrupting our lives, doing great harm to our economies, our perceptions of safety and security, and causing us to overreact.

4 **We must reorder our priorities so that U.S. governance is up to the task of keeping the nation safe.**

Political fixation on campaigns and winning office

fails to make a priority of keeping America safe, secure and prosperous.

5 **To prevail, we must overhaul our attitudes and machinery alike.** To that end, the White House and Congress must work more closely through major reform in organization and in the law that moves national security from its Cold War orientation to the challenges and demands of this century.

6 **We must understand that the current organization of government is dysfunctional.** Certain disciplines for Congress and the executive branch must be instituted to assure that governance is improved.

■ Actions abroad to build a global response for confining and reducing the dangers.

Moreover, the danger to the United States and its friends goes far beyond the global war on terror, terrorists who hate us and the risk of terrorists ultimately using weapons of mass destruction against us. The danger is political and should be seen in that light. Those who oppose us – I call them “jihadist extremists,” to differentiate them from the Islam they wish to hijack and pervert – are bent on establishing some form of radical regime in the greater Middle East, controlling Saudi and possibly Iraqi oil and Pakistani nuclear weapons. Armed with both, this regime could either isolate itself from the rest of the world, possibly turn off the oil spigot, and embark on a great crusade to spread its power and influence.

We all should be reminded that a century ago, Lenin and the Bolsheviks – and 80 years ago, Hitler and the Nazis – were ignored. Yet Russia became the Soviet Union and Germany the Third Reich in which the Second World War and the Cold War were fought.

Despite transforming the U.S. military, forming the Department of Homeland Security and integrating law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, our national security structure remains “dysfunctional,” the term used by the Hart-Rudman Commission in its 2001 report on national strategy for the 21st century. Indeed, the greatest need for reform is in Congress, which is torn by partisanship and bloated by a

committee structure and legislative process worthy of a communist state.

Abroad, old alliances such as NATO must be rejuvenated. New relationships, too, must be put into place to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons. More attention must be given to Africa, where huge resources such as oil and mineral wealth contend with terror, despotic regimes and pandemics that threaten to ruin many states. In Latin America and the nation’s backyard, new relationships are vital for similar reasons. Unless or until this is done, the United States and its allies will never be safer or made more secure.

If Americans understand the new danger and accept the need for fundamental action at home and abroad, then demand it, our nation can be made safer and more secure. If not, our children and grandchildren will regret and suffer from those failures. The choice is ours. 🌿

Dr. Harlan Ullman spent 20 years in the Navy, including 150 missions and combat operations in Vietnam as skipper of a swift boat. He later commanded a destroyer in the Persian Gulf. Currently a columnist for The Washington Times and a Fox News contributor, he also is a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

A proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley” law, passed in the wake of the corporate scandals to hold corporations and their leaders responsible and accountable, must be adopted for government. Both the executive branch and Congress would be covered. One specification might be to require members of Congress, prior to voting on a bill, to affirm that they have read and understood the legislation.



We must incorporate fundamental changes in law enforcement and intelligence.

We also require safeguards to protect individual liberties at a time when security requires greater government imposition and intrusion.



We must understand that we don’t need a system for defense but a system for assuring security.

That means defense is a subset of security with obvious implications for how we organize, train, equip, prepare and educate people.



In prevailing, we must adopt comprehensive solutions to major problems.

That means we must move to resolve the profoundly difficult conflicts between Israel and the Palestinians and between India and Pakistan. This will require a global solution with Arab recognition of Israel and Israeli recognition of a legitimate and viable Palestinian state. A modified Marshall Plan like that which so successfully rebuilt Western Europe

and Japan must be put in place for the region to attack the causes of violence and political unrest, with full international support.



Finally, we must broadly expand regional security arrangements.

NATO, our first and most important relationship, must be transformed to keep with the commitments made at the Prague Summit in November 2002. New relationships must be created. To that end, a conference similar to the Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe of the 1970s regarding nuclear weapons will be created among all known and suspected nuclear powers. Korea will be the first test case. Similarly, new arrangements for Africa and Latin America must be constructed.



Iron Chefs

The brunt of many jokes, combat cooks and the food they prepare are essential to military readiness and morale.



BY DAN ALLSUP

Referring to military cooks, one senior Air Force NCO said, “I lost 26 pounds during my four months at Baghdad Airport. It’s about time somebody exposed those SOB’s!”

American GIs over the centuries have perfected the art of griping about their chow. One veteran, in a series of essays he wrote about his experiences in Vietnam, even titled his piece on jungle cuisine, “Army Chow and Other War Atrocities.”

But the image may be changing. When the bullets stop flying, hot

chow and plenty of it had better be available for the troops. Certainly, even the most particular private knows that when it comes to combat food, he has it made these days. Since the first club-wielding caveman’s belly growled in hunger, military leaders have known that keeping the stomachs of their fighting men full is as important as the guns they tote. From the time the Continental Congress of 1775 established the first formal military food program, America has fielded the world’s best-fed fighting forces.

Well, usually.

Surviving on Gruel. Gen. George Washington’s troops shivering at Valley Forge were lucky to dine on a half ration of cold, watery gruel between skirmishes with the Redcoats. And hunger didn’t discriminate during the American Civil War; both sides yearned for more bullets and bread. Many thought the latter could substitute for the former. Soldiers slinging hash in the Civil War and later wars were part-time cooks, amateurs who never before gave a thought to the menial task of meal preparation. That was Mom’s job. It wasn’t always the cooks’ fault,



Marines and a sailor take turns flipping hamburger patties and steaks that were later served to Marines from Regimental Combat Team 1 at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. *Pfc. Brandon E. Loveless, USMC*

however. Food supplies were limited, and they could only serve what the quartermaster provided.

Take the ubiquitous hardtack. Please. North and South alike regarded the nearly inedible, nearly indestructible half-inch-thick cracker with a perverse fondness. In his book *"A Taste for War: The Culinary History of the Blue and Gray"* (2003, Stackpole Books), William C. Davis described hardtack as "too hard to chew, too small for shoeing mules, and too big to use as bullets." One private told friends, "We live on crackers so hard that if we had of loaded

our guns with them we could of killed the enemy in a hurry." Davis also writes of another soldier who was astonished to bite into something soft when attacking his hardtack. Asked if it was a worm, he replied, "No by God, it was a ten-penny nail!"

Not a laughing matter, historian Steven Anders said, is that 600,000 men died in the Civil War. Two-thirds were non-combat fatalities, and an uncounted number of these deaths were food-related.

Hi-Cal Cuisine. The quality and consistency of combat cuisine

improved slowly. It wasn't until 1896 that the Commissary General of the U.S. Subsistence Department issued an official cookbook. By 1941, military cooks prepared their meals with standard recipes that met strict nutritional requirements. Cooks today can choose from more than 1,300 recipes prepared by the Armed Forces Recipe Service. The emphasis is on less fat and sodium with more complex carbohydrates and fiber. You'll find few dieters in Iraqi foxholes, however, because modern military fare usually ranges from 1,200 to 1,500 calo-

ries per meal. Warriors are expected to burn them off.

Today's military cooks do much more than sling hash at famished GIs and slop cold SOS on dirty plates. They are properly trained professionals who know that a well-trained cook is a key to combat readiness. Marine Master Sgt. James Starks, a food-service veteran of more than 20 years, was deployed to Iraq for six months to serve as regimental mess chief for the 11th Marine Regiment artillery unit. Starks was responsible for feeding his headquarters unit during a 20-day ground movement from northern Kuwait to Baghdad. After returning to Camp Pendleton, Calif., he expressed pride in his role in the war effort.

"I know our job is vitally important," Starks said. "Napoleon was right. Armies really do march on their stomachs. Our guys usually ate MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat) when we were moving, but I set up our kitchen tents after we reached Baghdad. I had a choice of 14 dinner menus and seven breakfast menus. The favorite was chicken breasts with dressing and mashed potatoes." He added that Marine meals have changed considerably during his two decades of feeding the troops. "The technology has improved, the quality is better, and we now have the ability to deliver meals faster than ever before."

But did he get any respect? "In a peacetime environment, the troops tend to forget our importance," Starks said. "During a war, there's a renewed vigor and enthusiasm for the food-service community. Food is a vital component for sustenance in battle, but Marines really fight on heart."

Starks said Marines are weapons-qualified first, cooks second. One of his troops, Cpl. Johnny Ortega, had to drop his spatula and pick up his M-16 several times during his unit's movement into Baghdad.

"We were tasked with providing local security, and it got to be very interesting at times," Ortega said. "We had several engagements with the enemy along the way, and we had to learn as we went, but I think we did a pretty good job. I'd be in combat during the day and serve my fellow Marines at night. I know the guys like the hot chow. MREs have improved, but they can't compare to our hot meals."

Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Goldbach was a shift leader and one of 26 cooks who fed about 1,500 Army and Air Force troops around the clock near Baghdad International Airport. He also served in Operation Desert Storm. Goldbach compared the two conflicts from a food-service standpoint.

"The biggest difference is that the technology has vastly improved," he said in a telephone interview from Iraq. "In Desert Storm, we didn't have mess tents, and we ate our meals sitting on the ground. We didn't have electricity or gas, and we washed dishes in trashcans. Things are different here. Actually, it's pretty modern considering that we're in field conditions. It's as close to a home environment as we can make it."

Goldbach's "customers" ate their meals in two tents, the largest measuring about 80-by-20 feet. Included in the modern kitchen deployment kit were electric lights, lightweight portable benches and heating or air conditioning when needed.

No longer are exhausted GIs served mystery meat with magic sauce. Easily recognizable American brand names make the troops feel more at home. It's not the corner hamburger joint, but Goldbach said he didn't hear many gripes.

"I expected to have more complaints than we got, so I guess we were on the right track," he said. "We still heard a few gripes, but if it wasn't for our food, the



SOS

Chipped beef on toast is a dish comprised of a creamy sauce and slivers of dried, smoked, salted meat, served on toasted bread. In military slang, it is referred to as SOS, or "(Something-we-won't-print) on a Shingle."

Debate simmers about which military branch actually originated the recipe, but all agree that military personnel coined the name of the dish. The 1910 edition of the *Manual for Army Cooks* provides the following recipe for a quantity sufficient for 60 men:

Chipped beef on toast

15 pounds chipped beef
1 pound of fat, butter preferred
1¼ pounds of flour
2 12-oz. cans of evaporated milk
1 bunch parsley
¼ oz. pepper
6 quarts beef stock

Brown the flour in the melted fat. Dissolve the milk in the beef stock and then add that to the pot. Stir this together slowly to prevent lumping and then add the beef. Cook for a few minutes, add the parsley, and serve over toast.

Source: www.sciencedaily.com/encyclopedia/military_slang

troops wouldn't be happy very long. I'm proud to have had a major impact on their morale."

So, if these Emeril Lagasses in chevrons are so good, what about the scrawny Air Force NCO who lost 26 pounds in four months? As it turns out, he was suffering from an intestinal disorder that didn't have anything to do with the chow. 🍴

Dan Allsup is a St. Louis-area freelance writer.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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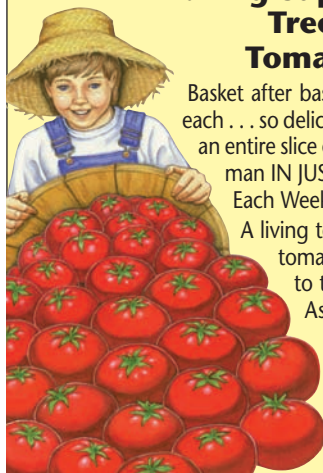
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Alan King

Entrenched on the Bench

Lifetime appointments shield federal judiciary from the public it serves.

BY PAUL JACOB

Incumbency is power. Re-election rates consistently run above 98 percent for members of Congress. And yet Americans view their congressional representatives as aloof and removed from them. Lobbyists, bureaucrats and rich campaign donors do not seem to suffer the same lack of connection. In 23 states, U.S. citizens have attempted to solve the problem by

passing legislation to limit the terms of their congressional representatives. Term-limit laws aimed at ending the era of congressmen-for-life were swiftly overturned, perhaps not surprisingly, by judges-for-life on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Talk of congressional term limits has not ceased. Rather, it has now expanded to include term limits for judges. A recent Associ-

ated Press poll shows that 60 percent of Americans favor a mandatory retirement age for federal judges, a limit on what is now a lifetime term of service.

Very Elder Statesmen. Today's Supreme Court has only one justice younger than 65. It has been accepting fewer cases in recent years. Life expectancy is certainly much higher today than it was

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Ann Zimmerman (Reporter), *The Wall Street Journal*, 6/9/2004

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when the Constitution was written, though many of the republic's earliest justices served in excess of two or even three decades.

Others argue that partisan rancor in the U.S. Senate is dangerously high; add the issue of selecting federal judgeships, especially to the High Court and for a life term, and you reach meltdown.

Norman Ornstein, a scholar with the American Enterprise Institute, writes in *The Washington Post* that "to prevent this partisan warfare from going nuclear: amend the Constitution to eliminate lifetime tenure in favor of single 15-year terms, at least for Supreme Court justices and federal appeals court judges."

Ornstein's support for limiting federal judges is a bit surprising, given his opposition to congressional term limits, which he argues would result in something akin to the end of the universe. Coming in the aftermath of a second term for President Bush, his support for limiting judicial tenure may have a partisan trigger.

Nonetheless, Ornstein is right, even if perhaps for the wrong reasons.

In a column for CNN.com, Edward Lazarus, a former federal prosecutor, advances a similar notion, writing that limited tenure "would lower the stakes ... it would reduce the incentive of picking younger and younger nominees – some of whom lack the experience and accumulated wisdom that should be the hallmark of judicial appointees. And it would prevent judges from staying on the bench too long just to wait out another administration ..."

Abuses and Usurpations. No doubt, some sentiment for ending life tenure can be tied to a number of unpopular decisions. The

Long-serving justices

Thirteen U.S. Supreme Court justices have served 30 years or more.

JUSTICE	YEARS SERVED
William O. Douglas	36 (1939-1975)
Hugo L. Black	34 (1937-1971)
Stephen J. Field	34 (1863-1897)
William J. Brennan	33 (1956-1990)
Joseph Story	33 (1812-1845)
John M. Harlan	33 (1877-1911)
William H. Rehnquist	33 (1972-present)
James M. Wayne	32 (1835-1867)
John McLean	31 (1830-1861)
Byron R. White	31 (1962-1993)
Bushrod Washington	30 (1799-1829)
William Johnson	30 (1804-1834)
John Paul Stevens III	30 (1975-present)

Supreme Court ruling that flag-burning is speech protected by the First Amendment and the more recent decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, that the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance should be stricken, have deeply offended most Americans.

While many of the decisions have angered Republicans and conservatives, the Supreme Court judgment in the *Bush v. Gore* case, arguably deciding the 2000 presidential election, spurred anger and a reassessment of the Court by Democrats and liberals.

Yet, disagreeing with a particular decision – even an important one, or several – would hardly lead the American people to alter the basic constitutional construction of the nation's judiciary. Instead, the public's conviction stems from a plethora of decisions, which in total reflect a court drunk with power, out of touch with the people and our Constitution, and no longer independent of the other branches nor removed from politics.

Support of term limits for federal judges comes mostly from an understanding that "power

tends to corrupt." Federal judges, at all levels, have enormous power. Long ago, Thomas Jefferson warned that the Constitution "is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please."

Most people understand and support the idea of a fundamental law, the Constitution, which protects individual rights, limits government power and cannot be changed by political winds in Washington or even fervent but temporary outpourings of public opinion. Thus, Americans embrace the idea that courts

should remain independent of the legislative and executive branches and not be a rubber stamp for majority opinion.

We want a judiciary that will prevent the legislature, the executive or a mob from trampling our freedoms, but we fear a judiciary so independent that it grows tyrannical.

Independence From Whom?

There's the rub. The whole issue of "independence" begs the question: independent from whom?

The Constitution established federal courts independent of the executive and legislative branches of government. As the influential French political philosopher Montesquieu wrote in "On the Spirit of Laws," "There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers."

However, our founders never envisioned that the courts would be independent of the people, for the people were assumed to be in sympathy with the Constitution that judges are sworn to uphold. To this day, I'm convinced Americans remain in sympathy with the Constitution – just not as it is



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sometimes interpreted by today's federal judges.

True, the judiciary must thwart the majority in cases where, as Alexander Hamilton wrote in *Federalist* 78, they "guard the Constitution and the rights of individuals from the effects of those ill humors, which the arts of designing men, or the influence of particular conjunctures, sometimes disseminate among the people themselves, and which, though they speedily give place to better information, and more deliberate reflection, have a tendency, in the meantime, to occasion dangerous innovations in the government, and serious oppressions of the minor party in the community."

If life tenure is supposed to cause federal judges to uphold the Constitution above all other considerations, the judges don't seem to have gotten the instructions.

Consider the regulation of political speech. Campaign finance reform is quite popular, but the First Amendment to the Constitution says ever so clearly that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech..."

Speech has been interpreted broadly, as it should be, but the amendment was most specifically intended to prevent regulation of political speech. Yet, in convoluted opinions totaling more than 1,600 pages, a federal appeals court upheld most of the McCain-Feingold campaign-finance act. The Supreme Court then followed suit, even endorsing a provision banning groups from mentioning the name or showing the likeness of a federal candidate in advertisements within 60 days of an election.

Consider also racial discrimination. Recently, the Supreme Court upheld certain affirmative action policies of public universities, but in doing so, the Court stipulated it

might reconsider its ruling after 25 years – as if the same equal-protection clause could mean different things from year to year.

Separation of Powers? Hamilton argued in *Federalist* 78, "judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution; because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them." But, he added, "I mean so long as the judiciary remains truly distinct from both the legislature and the executive." Today, that distinction has been blurred by federal courts ordering tax increases – a clearly legislative function.

Furthermore, the federal courts long ago ceased providing any meaningful check on the power of Congress or the executive branch agencies. As Glenn Harlan Reynolds, a University of Tennessee law professor, explained in an analysis for the Cato Institute:

"As written and originally understood, the Constitution limits the federal government primarily by enumerating its powers, which the Tenth Amendment confirms by declaring that those powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people. For a century and a half, the Supreme Court enforced those restraints. But with the New Deal and Roosevelt's 'Court-packing' scheme, the Court retreated from its traditional role, enabling Congress to indulge an ever-expanding array of powers. Today, under the Court's boundless reading of the Commerce Clause – which gives Congress power to regulate commerce among the states – the doctrine of enumerated powers is all but dead. Yet that doctrine was meant by the framers to be the centerpiece of the Constitution, the principal restraint on federal power."

The Constitution's intended separation of powers is gone. The courts rarely strike down an act of Congress that exceeds its authority, and rarely does any judge face repercussions from the Congress for overstepping judicial authority.

"The way we got into this mess begins with a judiciary that is already politicized," University of San Diego law professor Lawrence B. Solum says. "Lifetime tenure looks like a pretty silly idea if it is being used to safeguard the power of judges who have been thoroughly politicized."

Calls for a limit on judicial terms are long overdue. One of the best ideas is House Joint Resolution 55, a constitutional amendment introduced by Texas Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston, that would require federal district court judges to be retained every 10 years by both the state legislature and the governor where the judge serves. That strengthens federalism by interconnecting the federal courts with state governments, which are closer to the people.

Yet this amendment is going nowhere in Congress. The problem is obvious: we can hardly expect an out-of-control Congress to help us bring the judiciary under control.

Instead, in keeping with Alexis de Tocqueville's view of the states as "laboratories of democracy," bringing the judiciary under control must start closer to home. State judges have exhibited similarly bad behavior and, through the initiative process and more accessible legislators and elections, voters can do something about it. ☪

Paul Jacob is senior fellow at U.S. Term Limits, which advocates term limits at all levels of government. He can be contacted at pjacob@citizensincharge.org.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.

Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.

ORLANDO, FL— A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.



by Charlie Allen

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

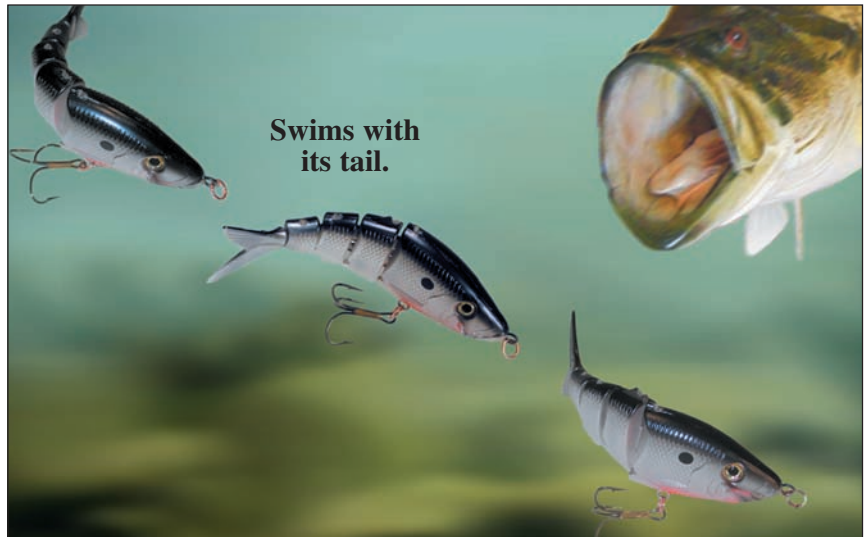
Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The KickTail™) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail caught



Inventor Scott Wilson lands a 10-pounder.

41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail won 19 to 4. The KickTail also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patented technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known principle



Swims with its tail.

New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.

called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.

"Fish attack live things, and they determine if something is alive by watching its movements. Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail doesn't do is breathe. It's better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail. It's like having another potato chip.

Increases catch almost 3 to 1.

"To make the KickTail even more lifelike, we gave it a natural shad color and shaped it like the most prevalent bait fish of all, the threadfin. Game fish gobble up more threadfin shad than any other baitfish.

"We knew the KickTail would out-fish other lures. It had to. Other lures wobble their heads and swim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's huge! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home run. Fishermen reserved thousands of KickTails before we produced it! Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell

the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish.

"The flutter technology also allows the KickTail to swim at the water's surface. Other top water lures must be worked to have any live action, or have a bill that makes them dive on retrieval. Our diver version is the only deep crank bait that let's you do tricks like 'walk the dog.' Twitch it at deep levels and it gives an irresistible, lifelike action. Other lures 'dig.' And there's no need for rattles. The five tail segments click together as you pull it through the water, calling fish from a distance."

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/h is only \$6.00 no matter how many you order.

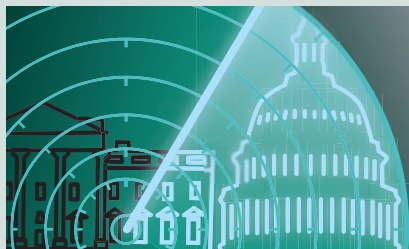
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Signs of war

Two years ago this month, the Cuban government jailed 75 people for expressing their political disagreement with the Castro regime. James Cason of the U.S. interests section in Havana used the Christmas season to remind Cuba and the world of Castro's actions, but not with a speech or a harshly worded statement. Instead, he added a giant neon "75" to the Christmas decorations that adorn the grounds around the interests section to serve as "a reminder of those arrested for thinking and speaking independently."

Castro did not appreciate the provocation, and after warning U.S. diplomats to remove the sign or face serious consequences, he erected a billboard directly opposite the U.S. display. Castro's sign included pictures of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison and a swastika.

Cason notes that at least 330 political prisoners are being held by Castro. The neon 75 was meant to represent them all.



"The Cuban people have fundamental freedoms which are being violated on a daily basis by the Castro regime," Cason said. "We want to see fundamental changes that allow people to exercise their rights as provided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rights that their *own* constitution says they are supposed to have."

The American Legion knows Castro's arbitrary, lawless and brutal methods in an all-too-personal way. In April 1961, Castro sent Havana Legion Post Commander Howard Anderson to the firing squad after a kangaroo trial. Anderson had moved his family out of Cuba after the revolution but returned to take care of the gas stations he owned, when Castro's secret police arrested the World War II veteran for conspiring to smuggle weapons to an anti-communist group. "He gave his life for the cause of freedom," National Commander William Burke observed in 1961.

— A.W.D.

Ch-ch-ch-changes

In yet another sign of its desire to liberate Iraq rather than occupy it, the U.S. military has changed the names that adorn 17 of its bases there.

Army bases that once had distinctly American – and distinctly bellicose – names such as "Headhunter," "Outlaw," "Warhorse" and "Gunslinger" are now known by more translatable and more politically palatable monikers like "Independence," "Freedom I," "Honor" and "Justice."

"Camp Justice," for instance, is known as Camp Al Adala among Iraqi security forces. A full listing of the changes, complete with their new Arabic translations, appeared in a recent edition of Lyric Wallwork Winik's "Intelligence Report" column in *Parade* magazine.

FORMER NAME	NEW NAME IN ARABIC	NEW NAME IN ENGLISH
Iron Horse	Al-Watani	Patriot
Eagle	Al-Amal	Hope
Victory	Al-Nasr	Victory
Highlander	Al-Isdehar	Prosperity
Headhunter	Al-Istiqbal	Independence
Ferrin-Huggins	Al-Saqr	Falcon
Warhorse	Al-Hurya Al-Awal	Freedom I
Greywolf	Al-Tawheed Al-Awal	Union I
Cuervo	Rustamiyah	Rustamiyah
North Victory	Al-Tahreer	Liberty
Banzai	Al-Adala	Justice
Steel Dragon	Al-Sharaf	Honor
Cooke	Taji	Taji
Gunslinger	Al-Tadamun	Solidarity
Outlaw	Al-Hurya Al-Thani	Freedom II
Warrior	Al-Tawheed Al-Thani	Union II
Trojan Horse	Al-Tawheed Al-Thalith	Union III

Border war

One of the major obstacles for Iraq on the long road to a stable, representative government has been a so-called insurgency movement thought to include a strange amalgam of radicalized Shiites, such as Muqtada al-Sadr; well-funded regime leftovers, such as Ibrahim al-Duri; and a few al-Qaida fighters, such as Musab al-Zarqawi. But with increasing evidence that Iran and Syria are sending men and materiel into Iraq, "insurgency" is probably the wrong word since it implies an internal resistance.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih confirmed in a *Washington Post* interview that "some groups in neighboring countries are playing a direct role in the killing of the Iraqi people." Iraqi President Ghazi Yawar has accused Iran of sending intelligence agents into Iraq to coordinate and foment anti-government activity. Indeed, in Tehran, "aid organizations" are encouraged to recruit volunteers to conduct suicide bombings against U.S. forces.

The Syrian government is providing safe haven, safe passage and material support to non-Iraqi fighters. According to the London *Daily Telegraph*, which detailed Syria's mischief in a recent analysis, Damascus is turning a blind eye to a network of mosques that serve as staging areas and recruiting centers for the guerrilla war in neighboring Iraq. *The Wall Street Journal* adds that funding for the guerrilla war is coming from Syrian banks, where Saddam Hussein deposited some \$2.5 billion.

Some Syrians are earning as much as \$3,000 per month to kill Iraqi democrats and their coalition partners – a sum that eclipses what most U.S. GIs are paid.

— Alan W. Dowd

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A look at prostate screening

Are current diagnostic strategies too much of a good thing?

BY DR. STEPHAN D. FIHN

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer and a leading cause of cancer death among U.S. men. Nearly 190,000 Americans are affected annually by the disease, and some 32,000 of them die every year. Based on the numbers, aggressive efforts to detect and treat the disease early seem warranted. Yet doctors disagree on how and when to test for it.

Current screening methods can help detect prostate cancer at an early stage, but drawbacks exist.

"While screening probably has helped a few men live longer, it has also clearly hurt others," Dr. H.

Gilbert Welch, a VA physician-researcher and professor at Dartmouth Medical School, recently wrote in *The Washington Post*. "Millions of men have undergone biopsies who otherwise wouldn't have. Many men with non-progressive disease have been turned into cancer patients unnecessarily. Most have been treated, and many have suffered ill effects. A few have even had their lives shortened by treatment."

Testing Controversy. When a man goes to the doctor for a periodic examination, his doctor may perform a rectal exam to check for abnormalities in the prostate, such as an enlargement or a lump. The doctor may also obtain a blood test for prostate-specific antigen. Elevated levels of PSA may signal cancer, but they can also result from infection or benign enlargement of the prostate. This latter condition often causes frequent or difficult urination and is readily treated with drugs or surgery.

The American Cancer Society and American Urological Association recommend a yearly PSA test for men older than 50 and for certain younger men. The National Cancer Institute and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force do not recommend routine PSA tests. Many physicians consider results of physical exams or individual risk factors before recommending tests. For example, black men and men with a family history of prostate cancer are more likely to develop the disease.

One of the problems with the PSA test is its high "false positive" rate: as many as seven of 10 men with abnormal results have no detectable cancer.

Thus, seven of these men bear the discomfort, expense and potential complications of these tests without any benefit.

For some of those men who do have cancer, the growth is so slow that the cancer is unlikely to cause problems during their lifetimes. Therefore, in some cases, a strong rationale exists for postponing treatment and closely observing the patient – what doctors call "expectant management." For those patients who undergo active therapy, options include various types of radiation, surgery or drugs. In some

cases, prostate cancer spreads quickly in the body and poses a lethal threat, but the disease usually progresses slowly. Most men develop prostate cancer if they live long enough, but fewer than three in 100 actually die from the disease.

New Strategies. Researchers are working to develop tests that are more sensitive and accurate than the PSA test. One idea is to test only for certain forms of PSA that can reliably indicate aggressive cancers.

Other research focuses on preventing prostate cancer or identifying the best ways to treat it. A 15-year study led by physician Timothy Wilt of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, is comparing the benefits and risks of two treatment strategies for men with localized prostate cancer: expectant management and a surgery called radical prostatectomy. Results are expected in 2010. VA and the National Cancer Institute are studying more than 35,000 men to determine if selenium and vitamin E can help prevent prostate cancer.

Source: Prostatehealing.com

For now, questions still abound regarding the best ways to prevent, detect and treat prostate cancer. Talk with your doctor about what approach is best for you.

Dr. Stephan D. Fihn is acting chief research and development officer at the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

Prostatitis warning signs

The symptoms of an enlarged prostate are often painful, embarrassing and frustrating. If you experience any of the symptoms listed below, it may indicate an enlarged prostate (BPH) or prostatitis, and you should make an appointment to see a urologist.

A frequent need to urinate, causing you to get up several times a night.

A weak, often interrupted urinary stream.

A full-bladder feeling, as if you can never completely empty your bladder.

Difficulty initiating urine stream, with involuntarily dribbling at the beginning or end.

Sudden, sometimes uncontrollable, urgency to urinate.

A burning, painful or throbbing sensation when urinating.

Loss of libido and sexual potency.

Blood in the urine and any pain or discomfort in the urinary tract.

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Legion partners with Homeland Security

In a recent signing ceremony, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced a new partnership between Citizen Corps, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. The affiliation was created to help raise public awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness, disaster-response training and volunteer service. American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus and Sandi Dutton, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, joined Ridge in signing the respective agreements.

"We know that the members of The American Legion and the Legion's Auxiliary are proud Americans who devote countless hours to serving their country and their communities," Ridge said.



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and American Legion National Commander Tom Cadmus formalize a partnership in Washington. *Ramona Joyce*

For more info

www.legion.org

www.citizencorps.gov

"With the help of these two fine organizations, the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen

Corps will expand its efforts to educate, train and prepare all Americans."

Through Legion posts and Auxiliary units across the nation, the organizations will help form or develop local Citizen Corps councils to implement programs that involve citizens in preparedness and disaster-response efforts. The partnership also will focus specifically on engaging America's youth in hometown security, elevating Flag Day as a day of citizenship and emergency preparedness, and providing support to VA hospitals in emergency preparedness efforts.

Citizen Corps is the Department of Homeland Security's nationwide grassroots effort that actively involves Americans in making communities safer, stronger and better prepared for all emergencies.

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Buyer leads House VA Committee

Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., has been named to replace Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., as chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The Legion praised Smith, recipient of The American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award in 2004, as a strong veterans advocate and said it was looking forward to working with Buyer.

"There is no doubt that America's veterans and their families are better off because of the tenure of Chairman Chris Smith," National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said. "However, we look forward to working with Chairman Buyer, a long-standing member of the committee, to improve the lot of our nation's veterans in the 109th Congress."

The Department of Veterans Affairs has seen the legitimate demand for health care by veterans double while the approved VA budget increased only by 50

percent. This caused hundreds of thousands of veterans to wait for primary health-care appointments up to 18 months or longer. The demand forced VA Secretary

Anthony Principi to drop Priority Group 8 veterans from the system just to stay within budget.

"The current appropriations process is broken and not adequately funding VA medical care," Cadmus said. "The American Legion and nine other veterans organizations

believe the answer lies in changing VA health-care funding from discretionary to mandatory appropriation.

"We have worked with Rep. Buyer when he was chairman of the oversight committee and will continue to do so. Although we may differ on how to fully fund the system, we share the same vision to make sure that the health-care needs of our nation's veterans are met."



Rep. Steve Buyer

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Creative Arts Festival brings veterans together

The American Legion Auxiliary donated more than \$75,000 – a third of the total cost – to last fall's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Salt Lake City. Veterans from 52 VA medical facilities participated, and more than 120 gold medals were awarded. Funding for the festival, shared by VA and Help Hospitalized Veterans, is applied to veterans' travel expenses.

"I especially want to thank the women of the American Legion Auxiliary," said Deputy VA Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield. "You have been partners with VA for 85 years. For more than 30 years, your volunteers have recognized that healing requires special care – not only for the body, but also for the mind and soul."

At the festival, Auxiliary volun-



Joseph "Leo" Bailey, a World War II Navy veteran from Concord, Calif., won first place in the senior vocal solo category at the 2004 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Salt Lake City. *Lucia Anderson*

teers ironed costumes, tailored suits, stocked the hospitality room, marked meal passes, and provided encouragement to attendees.

The festival's honorary chairper-

son was Hollywood star Bo Derek, who has worked for years with VA to improve public awareness of veterans' issues. Derek made a special appearance Oct. 15 to attend the art show and final performance.

American Legion National Commander Tom Cadmus and Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer attended the final performance, along with Sons of The American Legion National Commander Michael Deacon. Comer has been a supporter of the Auxiliary's involvement with the festival for the past two years and convinced his fellow Legionnaires to donate \$10,000 to the Auxiliary's festival fund.

– *Lucia Anderson, associate editor, American Legion Auxiliary National News*

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War illness center offers exams

The New Jersey War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center is one of only two VA-funded centers nationwide established to respond to veterans' war-related health concerns and to improve their health care. Teams of experts provide in-depth medical evaluations for veterans, conduct research, make recommendations for better managing veterans' medically unexplained war-related health problems and provide education to veterans and health-care providers about possible causes and treatments. The New Jersey facility specializes in evaluating veterans experiencing symptoms and also provides comprehensive physical exams to veterans of recent conflicts who have no immediate medical problems. The goal is to better address veterans' questions and concerns about future health problems that may occur as a result of their deployment. The exam also provides a baseline clinical evaluation that can be used if future medical problems arise. Each participating veteran is

provided individualized recommendations and information, along with their results.

Two options are available:

■ Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom who have deployment-related health concerns but no current deployment-related medical problems may contact the East Orange VA Medical Center directly at **(800) 248-8005**, or the center's OEF/OIF coordinator, Michelle Stefanelli, at **(973) 676-1000, ext. 1727**.

■ Veterans deployed to areas of hostility who currently have unexplained, deployment-related medical problems and have already undergone thorough medical examinations at their local VA facilities should contact their VA primary-care providers to request referrals to the center. The referral process and application can be found on the VA's Internet Web site, or veterans can call the center at **(800) 248-8005** or visit **www.wri.med.va.gov** for more information.

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Dr. Richard Cohen

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Travel discounts available to Legion meetings

Discounted airfare is available to Legionnaires traveling to official organization meetings this year. Purchase tickets at least 30 days in advance for most meetings and 90 to 120 days ahead for the national convention.

Contact Marti Wooden at (317) 630-1232 or via e-mail at mwooden@legion.org if you've been requested to attend a meeting. Otherwise, contact the airlines directly by calling the following numbers and using the associated Legion reference codes:

AIRLINE	NATIONAL CONVENTION CODE	SCHEDULED MEETING CODE
American Airlines (800) 433-1790	Authorization code 0985AA	Index code 17730
Northwest Airlines (800) 328-1111	WorldFile # NY884	WorldFile # NM59E
US Airways (877) 874-7687	N/A	Gold File # 8518-3257
United Airlines (800) 521-4041	Tour code # 500ZV	Tour code # 500ZV
American Trans Air (ATA) (877) 282-4322	Convention code MC50200	N/A

2005 Meetings Schedule

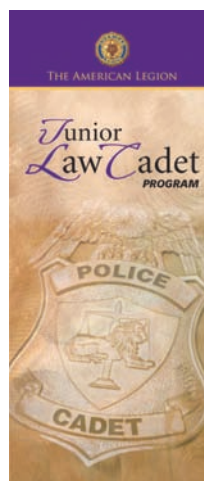
- April 8-10** National High School Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis
- April 28-May 5** Spring Meetings, Indianapolis
- May 26-31** "Race to the Top" events, Indianapolis
- July 20-30** Boys Nation, Washington
- July 27-31** DSO School & Workshop, Indianapolis
- Aug. 2-7** National Junior Shooting Sports, Colorado Springs
- Aug. 10-15** Legion Baseball Regionals: Providence, R.I.; Philadelphia; Montgomery, Ala.; Little Rock, Ark.; Davenport, Iowa; Bismarck, N.C.; Yakima and Seattle, Wash.; Las Vegas
- Aug. 15-29** National Convention, Honolulu
- Aug. 19-24** Baseball World Series, Rapid City, S.D.
- Sept. 11-15** Commander's Testimony, Washington (DCA, BWI & IAD)
- Sept. 29-Oct. 6** Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
- Oct. 28-Nov. 4** Legion College & Americanism Conference, Indianapolis

For a complete listing of eligible Legion meetings, visit the Legion Web site at www.legion.org.

Law Cadet Program offers insights

American Legion departments and posts across the country sponsor Junior Law Cadet Programs in cooperation with their state police or highway patrols. Program titles vary from state to state, and include such names as Trooper Week Program and Law Enforcement Training.

One of the program's goals is to recruit highly motivated high school juniors – male and female – from all communities and cultural backgrounds who are interested, or think they might be interested, in pursuing law enforcement as a career. The program provides firsthand experiences and insights into law-enforcement agencies while instilling an understanding and respect for law enforcement



The American Legion
National Security-Foreign
Relations Division
1608 K St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 861-2700

professionals and their techniques. Some departments designate one day during Boys State and Girls State for law-enforcement training. American Legion departments and posts are encouraged to sponsor Junior Law Cadet Programs in their states. Department Law and Order chairmen are asked to work with their departments to select persons to initiate programs in their states.

For information concerning current programs, states may contact the National Security-Foreign Relations Division in Washington or departments such as Arizona, Illinois,

Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina, which sponsor Junior Law Cadet programs.



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Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old. There is a receptorsite in almost every cell in the human

body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$20,000 US per year.

Many in hollywood's glamour sets, who never seem to age like you or I, have a special secret to tell, and even space pioneer and US Senator John Glen stays vital with HGH.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when the American Anti-aging Society, a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for the price of a coffee and donut a day.

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The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of

self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leapfrog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

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Veterans groups seek health-care reform

Representing more than 7 million military veterans, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars in January reaffirmed their unanimous support for fully funding the veterans health-care system. As members of the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, the three largest veterans organizations firmly believe veterans have earned the right to VA medical care through their extraordinary sacrifices and service to this nation. But each year, funding levels are determined through an annual appropriations process that is fundamentally broken. Year after year,



veterans fight for sufficient funding for VA health care and a realistic budget that reflects the rising cost of health care and increasing need for medical services. Despite

these continued efforts, the cumulative effects of insufficient health-care funding have resulted in the

rationing of medical care. "The nation's highest priority is national defense," American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said. "VA health care is an ongoing cost of war. Every veteran answered the nation's call to arms without reservation.

"As wartime veterans, Legionnaires understand the importance

of the VA health-care system. Short-changing VA health care is short-changing every military veteran from Bunker Hill to Baghdad. America's veterans are not expendable and should never be treated as such."

"Especially during this time of war, fully providing for the needs of this nation's past, present and future defenders is more than a mere contract between this government and its people; it is a moral obligation," VFW Commander-in-Chief John Furgess said.

"What's needed is a mechanism that will guarantee adequate annual budgets to meet the health-care needs of America's sick and disabled veterans, a move supported by all the major veterans organizations," DAV National Commander James E. Sursely said.

Millions of veterans have made VA their first choice for health care because of the quality of the care they receive. And for many others, VA is their only health-care lifeline.

For the third consecutive year, the veterans health-care system has struggled along for months at the previous year's inadequate funding level because Congress has failed to deliver a timely appropriations bill for VA. As a result, the nation's veterans have been denied timely access to necessary VA health care. The outlook isn't any better for the tens of thousands of servicemembers who will return from the global war on terror, considering they will need care from VA facilities for decades to come.

This national crisis is well documented by, among others, the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. In its final report released in May 2003, the task force recommended the federal government provide full funding for veterans health care through modifications to the current budget and appropriations process.

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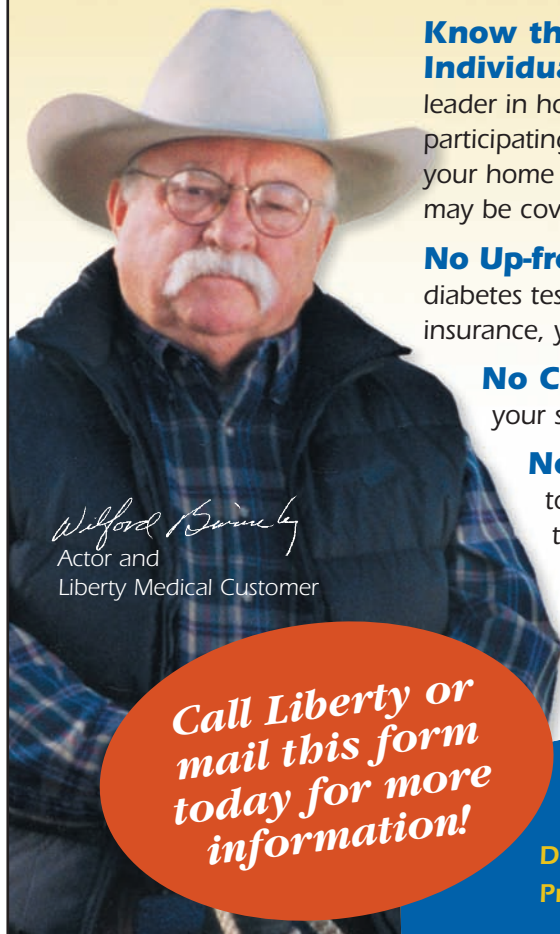
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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

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AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

444th FIS, Charleston, SC, 4/14-16, Wallace Mitchell, (803) 469-3297; **525th FIS**, Cocoa Beach, FL, 4/15-17, Albert "Mike" Mikuski, (802) 254-6297, mikecarol525fis@cheshire.net; **862nd Eng Avn Bn (1942-195 6)**, Las Vegas, 9/12-16, Joseph DiFranco, (440) 943-2700; **926th Sig Bn Separate Tact Air Cmd**, Herndon, VA, 8/4-6, Walter S. Rieker, (864) 654-9597, erieker@earthlink.net; **3080th ADG**, Branson, MO, 9/25-29, Donna Mae Bulgarelli, (800) 925-8498, info@bransonfun.com; **7406th Support Sqdn**, Philadelphia, 5/19-21, Harry Cleet, (610) 437-0823, harrylucyleet@aol.com; **A-37 Assn**, Irving, TX, 9/1-4, Ollie Maier, (512) 353-7432; **Air Trans Cmd Assn, All ATC, MATS & AMC**, Savannah, GA, Rick Ravitts, (815) 229-1122, devonshir@att.net; **BAD2 Assn 8th AF (Warton, England, WWII)**, Neenah, WI, 9/15-18, Dick McClune, (757) 877-3826

ARMY

1st Bn 8th Cav 1st Cav Div & Attached Personnel (Vietnam), San Diego, 9/8-11, James Knafel, (206) 244-9264, jjknafel@myvine.com; **1st Bn (Mech) 50th Inf Rgt**, Columbus, GA, 5/4-7, Jim Woodall, (979) 693-1129, woodalljg@yahoo.com; **3rd/47th Riverine Inf 9th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Frank Gubala, (716) 873-4821, fgubala@aol.com; **3rd/60th 47th Riverine Inf 9th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Jim Toney, (580) 628-2353, jimtonetds.net; **3rd Inf Div Society**, San Diego, 9/15-18, Bruce Monkman, (818) 343-3370, brucemonkman@earthlink.net; **4th/47th Riverine Inf 9th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Dave Schoenian, (304) 845-5574, hschoenian@comcast.net; **6th Bn 80th Arty**, Baltimore, 4/21-24, Arvon Staats, (405) 942-7199, astaats@ionet.net; **6th Inf Div All Units**, Nashville, TN, 9/21-25, Russ McLogan, (517) 437-2768, terrusspress@dmci.net

7th Bn FA (Vietnam, 1967-1971), Cleveland, 8/18-21, Dab Gillotti, (440) 934-1750, firstcav68@adelphia.net; **8th Bn (HAWK) 3rd Arty**, Colorado Springs, CO, Herb Lynch, (405) 222-2574; **9th Inf Div (WWII)**, Washington, 9/23-25, William Robey, (301) 567-4290, billrobey@aol.com; **14th Cbt Eng Bn**, Des Moines, IA, 9/8-11, Stanley Schwartz, (859) 498-4567, shs313@bellsouth.net; **16th Sig Opns Bn All Eras**, Reno, NV, 4/25-27, Al Noland, (503) 650-4078; **17th Armd Eng 2nd Armd Div**, Kansas City, MO, 8/31-9/3, John A. Shields, (724) 287-4301; **24th Inf Div All Sports Teams (Augsburg & Munich, Germany, 1958-1968)**, Orlando, FL, 6/23-26, Leo Parchesky, (570) 537-2444, leopard@npacc.net; **26th Inf Rgt Assn**, Dulles, VA, 6/15-19, Gene Cocke, (703) 250-9085, dobol26@aol.com; **30th FA Rgt/C Btry 6/16th FA**, Killeen, TX, 6/22-26, Charles Causey, (931) 553-5081, ccusa91@aol.com; **33rd Inf Div**, Kalamazoo, MI, 5/26-5/28, Rosemary Chamberlin, (269) 344-3483, chambie123@yahoo.com; **34th Inf Div Tri-State Chpt**, Carlisle, PA,

7/31, Pat Skelly, (508) 524-3948; **36th Inf Div Assn Midwest Chpt**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 6/9-12, Bates Southall, (615) 799-0333, bates93044@aol.com; **42nd Rainbow Inf Div**, Indianapolis, 7/12-16, Pete Pettus, (573) 431-6184, jrpazir@juno.com; **45th Inf Div Assn "Thunderbirds,"** Oklahoma City, 9/29-10/2, Raul Trevino, (210) 681-9134; **52nd Cbt Eng Bn**, Syracuse, IN, 7/9, Robert Parcell, (574) 457-2915, bobncell@yahoo.com; **53rd Ord Grp USAEUR Cmd (Spinelli Barracks, Mannheim, Germany, 1954-1960)**, Milwaukee, Summer, Jim Friedl, (262) 670-1353, jmfriedl@yahoo.com; **54th Sig Bn & Attached Units (WWII-present)**, Austin, TX, Fall, E.A. Goetsch, (715) 546-2340, elmerag@dwave.net; **62nd Sig Bn A & B Cos (WWII)**, Paducah, KY, 5/12-15, Henry Watkins, (270) 442-5534, hwatkins@lan-ky.com; **84th & 62nd Army Eng (Korea)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/2-6, Ted Anbuhl, (251) 666-5521

93rd Eng Co (Float Bridge, 1955-1957), Chicago, 7/15-17, R.P. Williams, (630) 416-3382, williamsb9@aol.com; **100th Inf Div FL Chpt**, Daytona, FL, 4/28-5/1, Earl Wood, (407) 896-1706; **113th Cav Grp 113th Cav Recon Sqdn & 125th Cav Recon Sqdn**, Des Moines, IA, 5/19-22, Frank D. West, (515) 554-9015, fwestia2@aol.com; **117th AHC 8th Trans Co & Dets (Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 6/23-26, Al Bennett, (229) 896-2500, namvet42@hotmail.com; **159th Trans Bn (Boat) 3rd Port "Hickory Knoll" Vets (1953-1965)**, Virginia Beach, Aug, Len Dube, (860) 489-3389, mads2@snet.net; **199th Eng C Bn**, St. Cloud, MN, 9/18-20, Charles Lindberg, (218) 778-6730; **256th Eng Cbt Bn (WWII)**, Columbus, IN, 9/8-10, John W. Bowling, (812) 378-5351, jwb@reliable-net.net; **278th Cbt Eng A Co**, Evansville, IN, 9/15-17, Francis Martin, (812) 963-5402; **314th Inf (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/8-11, Wayne Irby, (800) 925-8498, info@bransonfun.com

551st Sig Aircraft Warning Bn (Northern Solomon Islands, Letye, Southern Philippines, WWII), Fort Gordon, GA, 9/23, Mike Shillinger, (706) 791-6205; **620th Eng RAF (Chelveston, England, 1952-1956)**, Peoria, IL, J. Costa, Box 593316, Orlando, FL 32859; **728th MP Bn**, Brownsville, TX, 9/21-24, Luis Romero, (956) 233-9337, romerospiritsandgifts@tiagris.com; **772nd MP Bn Vets Assn**, Tucson, AZ, 4/28-5/1, Bill McDonald, (708) 422-3892, wlmac@comcast.net; **804th Eng Avn Bn (SCARWAF)**, Memphis, TN, 9/11-14, Harry Lischer, (314) 822-2364, reunion804theab@webtv.net; **1303rd Eng "Eager Beaver Rgt,"** Toms River, NJ, 9/3-4, Bob Schneiderman, (732) 341-7462, knottoday@att.net; **860th AAU 5th ASA FS Det 5 2nd Sig Svc Bn**, Baltimore, 5/19-22, George Akerhielm, (315) 682-9460, gjaker@juno.com; **A Co 701st MP Bn (Presidio, San Francisco)**, Bismarck, ND, 9/17-18, William Nemec, (701) 221-2564; **Americal Div Vets Assn**, Kansas City, MO, 6/15-19, Dave Chrystal Sr., (573) 819-0796, cryweasel@att.net; **C Co 71st Maint Bn (Bamberg, Germany, 1965-1967)**, Las Vegas, 7/27-30, Mike Gallagher, (608) 776-2418,

svjc@mhct.net; **Cbt Infantrymens Assn**, Tucson, AZ, Oct, Larry Eckard, (828) 256-6008, larrymlrs@charterinternet.com; **Mars Task Force Arty 612th & 613th FA Bns Pack (WWII)**, Columbus, OH, 9/15-18, Thomas Carr, (614) 252-2804

COAST GUARD

AOG Reunion Grp - USS Escatawpa AOG 27, USS Kanawha AOG 31, USS Ogeechee AOG 35, Newport, RI, 5/16-20, William Waller, (757) 217-2356, wallerwn@wcbeach.com; **Former, Active XI, INV, S/A, CGI, CGI & LE, CGIS (Oil) Branch Chiefs & Staff/G-OIS & G-OLE Chiefs & Staff**, Branson, MO, 5/24-27, Bruce Sheils, (501) 745-8502, bruanhm@webtv.net

JOINT

60th Anniv of Battle of Iwo Jima, Washington, 2/18-20, (703) 212-0695, combatvetiwo@miltours.com; **Anzio Beachhead Vets (WWII)**, Washington, 4/21-25, John Boller, (631) 691-5002, juniorjlb@msn.com; **Fort Reno All Former Troops**, Fort Reno, OK, 6/4-5, Erma Jean Higgins, (405) 732-1520, hhiggins@cox.net; **Non-Commissioned Officer Candidates (1967-1972)**, Columbus/Fort Benning, GA, 9/8-11, Lonnie Wise, (229) 824-4567, lmwise@southernco.com; **Port Lytautey Alumni Assn**, Savannah, GA, 4/29-5/1, Doug Scott, (580) 362-2275, cherteld@sbcglobal.net; **USS Bexar APA 237**, Washington, Sept, James Redding, (559) 935-1439, dinamlrs@charterinternet.com; **USS Huntington CL 107**, Baltimore, Fall, Gene Volcik, (512) 926-7008, evolvick@aol.com; **USS Shagri-La CV/CVA/CVS 38 All Members & Mar Dets**, Cleveland, 6/15-19, Howard D. Schwarzman, (330) 948-3356, dakotawing@yahoo.com

MARINES

1st ANGLICO FMF, Columbus, OH, 5/26-30, John Maurer, (614) 262-9002, jmaurer@columbus.rr.com; **1st Mar Div A Co 1st Bn 7th Rgt (China, WWII)**, Chattanooga, TN, 4/19-21, Lou Clabeaux, (727) 399-9276, jrlclabeaux@webtv.net; **2nd Topo Co Force Trps FMF Atl (1960-1964)**, Altoona, PA, Fall, John Andrus, (216) 941-7417, jracha@aol.com; **4th Mar Div (WWII)**, Camp Pendleton, CA, 9/6-10, Arthur Anderson, (619) 223-8736; **11th Amph Tract Bn (Iwo Jima, 1943-1946)**, St. Louis, 6/10-12, James Herring, (217) 423-6065; **Clarksville Base TN "Birdcage,"** Parris Island, SC, 5/5-7, Jim Shipley, (410) 987-4422, jacaship@comcast.net; **How Co 3rd Bn 5th Mar Rgt 1st Mar Div**, Canandaigua, NY, 9/21-24, Richard Oakleaf, (315) 597-9568; **Lima Co 3/1 (Vietnam, All Years)**, Philadelphia, 7/7-10, Edward J. Gibbs, (215) 675-9367, sargegram@aol.com; **Pit 2254 (MCRD San Diego, Jan-Mar 1969)**, Michael Morningstar, (928) 680-2962, michaelmorningstar@hotmail.com; **VMF/VMA-121 (1946-1954)**, Des Plaines, IL, 4/30, Bill Eck, (847) 599-8418

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11th Seabees (WWII), Albany, NY, 9/11-14, James V. D'Amore, (609) 259-0631, james.damore@att.net; **29th Seabees**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 8/28-31, Arthur Grotto, (708) 974-3691, agrotto@sbcglobal.net; **90th NCB**, Roseville, MI, 9/28-10/1, Charles Christiansen, (586) 463-5319, charleschristiansen1@compuserve.com; **101st Seabees**, San Antonio, 5/11-14, Calvin Belt, (812) 422-1983; **AOG Reunion Grp - USS Agawam AOG 6, USS Aroostook AOG 14, USS Chestatee AOG 49, USS Chewaucan AOG 50, USS Elkhorn AOG 7, USS Genesee AOG 8, USS Kishwaukee AOG 9, USS Klaskanine AOG 63, USS Mattabeset AOG 52, USS Namakagon AOG 53, USS Nemasket AOG 10, USS Noxubee AOG 56, USS Patapsco AOG 1, USS Ponchatoula AOG 38, USS Rio Grande AOG 3, USS Sequatchee AOG 21, USS Tombigbee AOG 11**, Newport, RI, 5/16-20, William Waller, (757) 217-2356, wallerwn@wcbeach.com

Avn Repair & Overhaul Unit Navy 140 One & Two, Pittsburgh, 9/11-13, Edward Haney, (412) 653-6874, e.j.duke@aol.com; **BMU-2 "Expedition" 2000**, Gatlinburg, TN, 6/16-19, Robert L. Burton, (812) 331-1078, burtonrj@hotmail.com; **Cmd River Assault Flotilla 1 (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/3, Gunner Stanley, (864) 306-8400, gunnerstan@aol.com; **NAS Sanford All Units and Sqdns (1942-1968)**, Sanford, FL, 6/24-26, Gerald Bohm, (386) 668-4851; **Nav Air Reserve VP/VS (Sandpoint & Whidbey Island)**, Everett, WA, 9/20-21, Don Christianson, (509) 697-6490, dchrist248@earthlink.net; **NMCS 128**, Gulfport, MS, 4/14-17, John Rickman, (228) 374-6859, john.rickman@keesler.af.mil; **Opticalman/Instrumentman Assn**, Branson, MO, 6/23-26, Lloyd Stagg, (850) 944-3302, lttstagg@msn.com; **Piney Point Torpedo Testers**, Piney Point, MD, 7/29-31, Carl Frey, (717) 581-7437; **River Assault Divs**

91-92 (Vietnam), Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/1-9/4, Bob VanDruff, (785) 267-0753, bvdmrfa@networksplus.net; **River Assault Divs 111-112 (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Wayne Braastad, (520) 270-3011, riverrat@theriver.com; **River Assault Divs 131-132 (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Frank Springer, (517) 725-9098, fmspringer@juno.com; **River Assault Divs 151-153 (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/1-9/4, Mike Harris, (541) 267-4755, mekong152@charter.net; **Seabees (All Eras)**, Bloomington, MN, 8/10-14, Donald Kunz, (651) 459-2807, mnseabee1@msn.com; **SLCU 36 Boatpool Baker (Okinawa)**, La Porte, TX, 6/10-12, Donald A. Brown, (501) 767-5341; **Task Forces 115-117 (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Joe Rosner, (262) 653-0876, joerosner@www.rr.com; **USS Abnak ATF 96**, Bowie, MD, 9/21-25, Adolph Channell, (304) 799-6442, achannell@marlintonwv.com

USS Ajax Assn, Chicago, 6/16-20, Don Turnberg, (612) 822-0006, deft@prodigy.net; **USS Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617**, Mount Pleasant, SC, 10/19-23, David Mueller, (843) 553-2775, whiskey58@comcast.net; **USS Alfred A. Cunningham DD 752**, Corpus Christi, TX, 9/14-18, Steve Spetter, (903) 677-0670, onespecialdad@cs.com; **USS Amphion AR 13**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/21-24, Lloyd Stagg, (850) 944-3302, lttstagg@msn.com; **USS Arcadia AD 23**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/21-24, Andrew Malone, (516) 681-0725, arcd23@yahoo.com; **USS Bayfield APA 33**, Branson, MO, 9/22-26, George Brewer, (800) 925-8498, info@bransonfun.com; **USS Beatty DD 640/DD 756 Reunion Assn**, Gatlinburg, TN, 9/20-25, Ralph Perone, (631) 321-8549, rap24@optonline.net; **USS Benewah APB (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Albert B. Moore, mrfba@charter.net; **USS Boston Shipmates CA 69/CAG 1/SSN 703**, King of Prussia, PA, 7/14-17, Arthur L. Hebert, (603) 672-8772; **USS Cadmus AR 14**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/21-24, Robert Baschmann, (716) 655-5415,

dimamr@aol.com; **USS Cambria APA 36**, Columbus, OH, 4/14-17, David Stoll, (419) 738-3786, destoll@bright.net; **USS Capodanno FF 1093**, Orlando, FL, 8/5-7, Dave Campbell, (727) 385-7121, ff1093@hotmail.com; **USS Charles R. Ware DD 865**, Athens, TN, 8/25-28, Frank Biondo, (516) 481-0034, munkb@msn.com; **USS Chevalier DD/DDR 805**, Nashville, TN, 9/7-11, Jack Wilz, (309) 527-5466, wilz@elpaso.net; **USS Chicago CA 14/CA 29/CA 136/CG 11/SSN 721**, Jacksonville, FL, 4/27-5/1, Scotty McClurg, (904) 261-8944, lynnescot@aol.com; **USS Cimarron AO 22**, San Diego, 9/29-10/2, Roger Willoughby, (858) 748-9217; **USS Colleton APB (Vietnam)**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/31-9/4, Albert B. Moore, mrfba@charter.net; **USS Colorado BB 45**, Valley Forge, PA, 9/21-25, Andy Anderson, (800) 472-7860, andy@usscolorado.org; **USS Comstock LSD 19**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/13-16, William Thomas, (757) 420-0716; **USS Core CVE 13, VC-12/VC-13/VC-36/VC-58**, St. Louis, 9/17-21, Julian C. Adams, (336) 869-4722

USS Cowell DD 547, Baton Rouge, LA, 9/29-10/2, L.D. Salley, (864) 268-3365, lsalley2@bellsouth.net; **USS Ernest G. Small DD/DDR 838**, Nashville, TN, 9/15-18, Ron Palinkas, (909) 465-1460, ronpalinkas@aol.com; **USS Eugene A. Greene DD/DDR 711**, Milwaukee, 9/15-18, Glenn Herman, (559) 732-1766, herman1@lightspeed.net; **USS Eunice PCE 846**, Mobile, AL, 4/14-17, Harry Kalbach, (641) 524-2811, hkalbach@netins.net; **USS Flusser DD 368 (1935-1946)**, Washington, 9/21-25, Harry McMillan, (231) 854-1956, harrym59@msn.com; **USS Gantner DE 60/APD 42**, Orlando, FL, Fall, Richard Ager, (301) 459-3545, de60ager@aol.com; **USS Griggs APA 110**, Nashville, TN, 9/18-21, Charles Forshee, (336) 357-6476, ctforshee@lexcominc.net; **USS Grouper SS/SSK/AGSS 214**, Houston, Robert Gulliver, (281) 242-0515, rojgull@aol.com

USS Halsey Powell DD 686, Omaha, NE, 9/21-25, Michael Baker, (616) 392-3547, skippermike@wmol.com; **USS Hazelwood DD 531**, St. Louis, 4/27-30, Dale Crosier, (319) 395-9287, dfcrosier@earthlink.net; **USS Helena CL 50/CA 75/SSN 725**, Las Vegas, 9/5-8, Bill Bunker, (626) 446-7361; **USS Henley DD 762**, Portland, OR, 9/8-11, Richard Le Blanc, (760) 369-0453, jadikjt@webtv.net; **USS Hornet CV 8/CV 12/CVA 12/CVS 12**, Jacksonville, FL, 9/13-19, Carl Burket, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com; **USS Iowa BB 61**, Rapid City, SD, 9/13-17, Paul Ogg, (360) 692-6032, kjoggpr@aol.com; **USS John R. Craig DD 885**, Bloomington, IL, 9/14-18, James Barrett, (609) 698-2109, jimbarredd885@aol.com; **USS Kenneth D. Bailey DD/DDR 713**, Pittsburgh, 4/7-10, Robert Levine, (617) 327-3286, rhl713@aol.com; **USS Kitty Hawk CV/CVA 63 Vets Assn**, Chicago, 8/15-20, Chuck Peterson, (608) 846-4613, chollyp@charter.net

USS Knudson APD 101, St. Louis, 5/22-25, Joe Bratcher, (314) 968-3324, bratcher_44@yahoo.com; **USS Libra AKA 12 (WWII & Korea)**, Branson, MO, 9/14-17, Herbert C. Platz, (845) 469-4980, rjrplatz@frontiernet.net; **USS Lofberg DD 759**, Hampton, VA, 9/23-25, Mel Jones, (480) 497-3538, mjofaz@cox.net; **USS Long Beach CGN 9 (Plankowners-Opn Sea Orbit)**, Norfolk, VA, 7/14-17, Garland Overfelt, (540) 774-6570, lngbchtgr@cs.com; **USS Long Island CVE 1**, Longmont, CA, 6/1-5, Wallace Meyer, (303) 776-1360; **USS LST 447**, Denver, 5/4-7, Fred Weber, (308) 278-2513; **USS LST 702**, Newport, KY, 9/20-22, Jim Mattchen, (217) 428-3004, jimmattchen@aol.com; **USS LST 1014**, Gettysburg, PA, 5/22-27, C.J. Osterkamp, (714) 639-2381, kolectr@adelphia.net; **USS LST Assn Carolinas Chpt**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 5/1-3, Calhoun C. Benton, (843) 449-7914, cc Benton@att.net

USS Maddox DD 168/622/731, Mobile, AL, 9/15-18, Cliff Gillespie, (714) 960-5283, cwgilles45@aol.com; **USS Manley DD 940**, Nashville, TN, 7/21-25, Joe Dennison, (386) 767-8068, manleydd940@cliff.rr.com; **USS Mansfield DD 728**, Mobile, AL, 8/9-13, Clarence Cagle, (404) 792-0024, icuclarence@earthlink.com; **USS Marathon APA 200**, Las Vegas, 5/2-6, John Wayne Mohney, (812) 824-7153,

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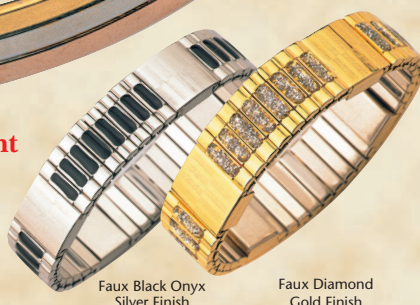
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Earle S. Crooks, Dept. of Connecticut. Dept. Cmdr. 1961-1962.

Vito M. DeFilipp, Dept. of Maine. Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Memb. 1965-1970, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1970-1972, Dept. Cmdr. 1972-1973, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1976-1978, Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1978 and 1986-1995, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1978-1980, Nat'l Cmsn. On Children & Youth Liaison Cmte. 1978-1979, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. 1979-1980, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1980-1983, Nat'l Merchant Marine Cmte. Memb. 1983-1985 and Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1985-1986.

Charles R. John, Dept. of Oklahoma. Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 1994-1997, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1995-2001 and 2002-2003, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 1997-2000, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. 2000-2001, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 2001-2002 and Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Memb. 2002-2004.

John E. McElvey, Dept. of Texas. Dept. Cmdr. 1963-1964, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964 and 1965-1968, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1964-1965 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1964-1972.

Daniel J. O'Connor, Dept. of New York. Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1960-1962, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Chmn. 1962-1963, Nat'l Spirit of '76 Cmte. Consultant 1970-1976, Nat'l Cmsn.'s Spec. Cmte. On Education 1975, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1983-1984 and Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Chmn. Emeritus 1984-2004.

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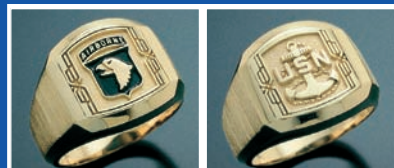
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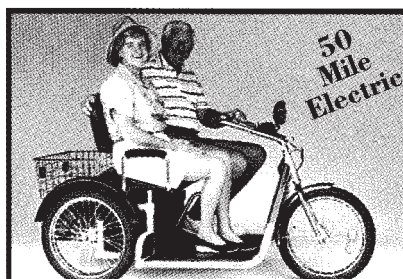


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Being overweight is something that just snacks on you.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in many years, an old man traveled from his rural town to the city to attend a movie. After buying his ticket, he stopped at the concession stand to purchase some popcorn.

Handing the attendant \$2.50, he couldn't help but comment, "The last time I came to the movies, popcorn was only 15 cents."

"Well, sir," the attendant replied with a grin, "you're really going to enjoy yourself. We have sound now."

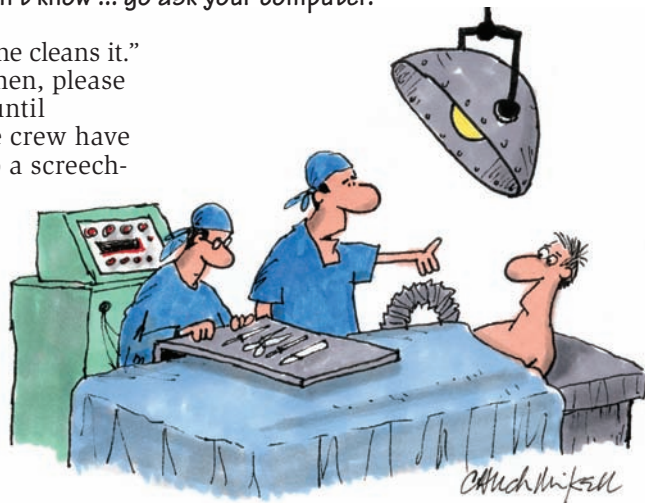
FLIGHT ATTENDANT HUMOR

- "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only four ways out of this airplane."
- "Whoa, big fella. Whoa!"
- "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
- "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."



"I don't know ... go ask your computer."

- "Last one off the plane cleans it."
- "Ladies and gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Captain Crash and the crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."



BUMPER STICKER: "If you can read this, thank a teacher. And since it's in English, thank a Marine."

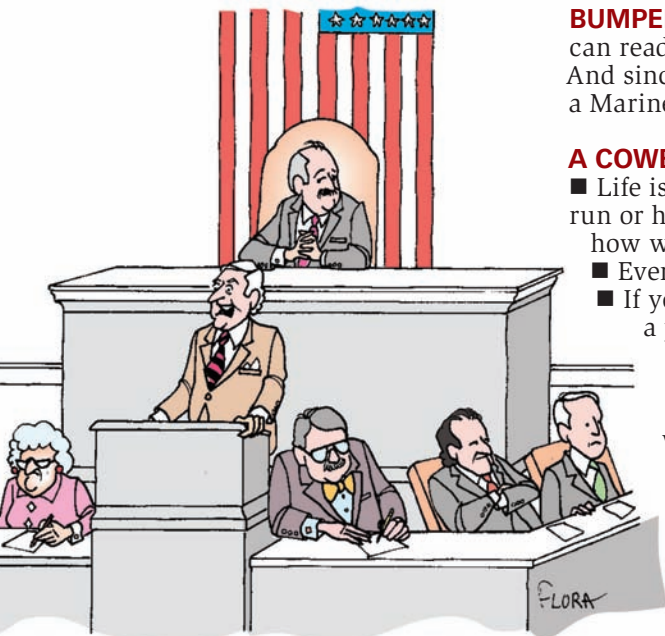
A COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE

- Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' around somebody else's dog.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- If you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas.
- If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back now and then to make sure it's still with ya.

"If at any time you see a really bright light, stay away from it."

- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Sometimes you get and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you in the mirror every morning.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.

A MAN'S WIFE asked him to buy organic vegetables from the market. He went and looked around but couldn't find any. So he grabbed a tired-looking employee and said, "These vegetables are for my wife. Have they been sprayed with any poisonous chemicals?" The produce guy looked at him and replied, "No. You'll have to do that yourself."



"All in favor of funding this bill, signify by saying, 'Oink, oink.'"



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